

JOHN BULL

Vol. 2. No. 256

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

628137

For meaning of
this No. see
page ii. of cover.



*The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull.*

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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Companion Publications.

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WOMEN.

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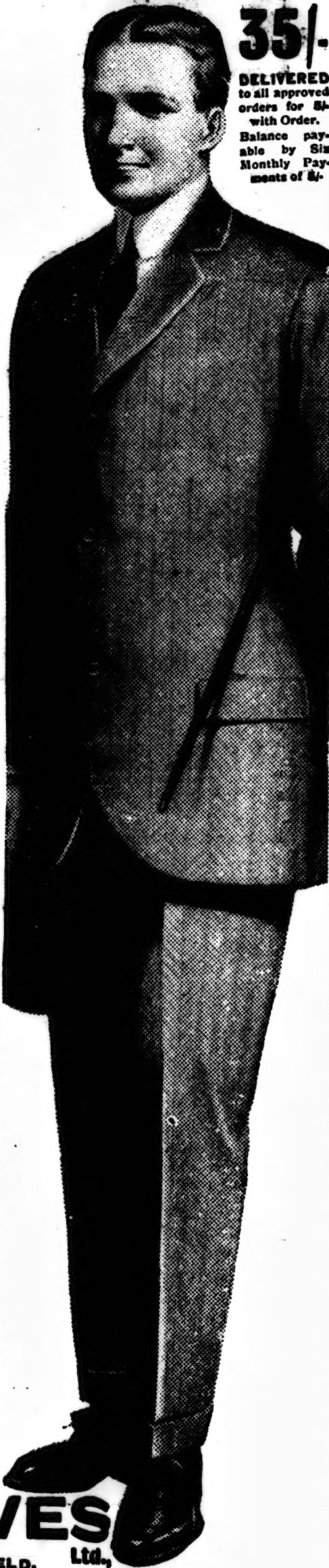
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The following claims have been received for our issues of March 14th and 18th:—

S. E. GIBSON, 9, Content Street, Winton, Durham. No. 259,546. March 11th.

MRS. C. C. JONES, 21, Murrayfield Gardens, Edinburgh. No. 441,358. March 18th.

WM. NEWTON, 21, Lime Street, Middlesbrough. No. 420,382. March 18th.

JAMES E. WHITE, 4, West Nile Street, Glasgow. No. 163,892. March 18th.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of April 1st:—

351	109723	218634	387315	506254
10849	119585	223073	392434	513586
22795	132425	237105	407598	529983
52084	158486	241216	428549	537601
59324	173338	262891	436052	544748
63981	186651	269491	470099	563387
74323	196600	309269	476503	574621
92119	200956	331417	496373	601492
97973	206007	353713	498605	614751
100160	212320	370215	501988	659868

INITIAL NOTICES SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECEIVED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED MAY 27TH (PUBLISHED MAY 25TH).

The John Bull League.

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Vol. X. No. 256.

Saturday, April 29th, 1911.

One Penny.

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The John Bull League.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

LATEST POLITICAL GOSSIP.

That the Lord Chancellor, "on account of ill health," will make way for Viscount Haldane; and that Dr. Macnamara will succeed Mr. Runciman—Sir R. Morant's present assistant at the Board of Education.

LATEST JUDICIAL RUMOUR.

That the health of the Lord Chief Justice may induce him to transfer his judicial services to the House of Lords—and that "Rufus" is already wondering how he will look in crimson and ermine.

MARY JANE.

As every argument which has been employed in support of the Shops Bill could with greater force be applied to the case of domestic servants, we have decided to introduce a measure for the regulation of their hours and meal times, and providing for their "inspection." We do not, however, anticipate getting the Bill through this session!

THE AKBAR REFORMATORY SCANDAL.

We have by no means done with this matter—to which we shall shortly return in both the House and these columns. Meanwhile it is illuminating to note, from a reply recently given us by Mr. Churchill, that the Managers of the School are prepared to accept the "resignation" of the brute, Lovelock—"although with reluctance." There is eloquent testimony in those words to the character of the atmosphere in which the recent Enquiry was conducted.

RAMSAY, THE SABBATARIAN.

We have before us a letter written by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald in October last in connection with the selection of a Labour candidate, from which we extract this delicious bit of cant: "The whole matter was very carefully considered, and I was instructed to state that my committee cannot agree to conferences for the selection of candidates *being held on a Sunday*." What a Labour Leader! There can be no doubt that, under his régime, the Party is rapidly becoming a tame wing of the Government; and we are not surprised that much disaffection already exists. We heard a lot at Leicester lately.

FLATTERY FROM UNEXPECTED QUARTERS.

Congratulations to Dr. Addison and Mr. Chancellor, the two M.P.'s for the neighbouring divisions of Hoxton and Haggerston, upon following—though somewhat tardily—our lead in Hackney. "As the Shops Bill has passed the second reading without a division, and will soon be in Committee," they have convened a conference of their constituents likely to be affected. The only difference is that we convened *our* meeting before the Bill passed. Still, we are duly flattered.

"REVOLUTION"—BY NIGHT.

Having pledged ourselves to support Clause I. of the Parliament Bill—which prohibits interference by the Lords with Finance—we sat up all one night last week for the purpose of redeeming our promise. It was a ghastly business. About 200 "faithful" Commoners—less than a third of the House—kept vigil whilst the stream of talk flowed on. Nobody listened to anybody. Except for the quorum necessary to prevent a "count out," members were in the dining and smoking-rooms, stimulating their exhausted energies, and waiting for the joyful sound of the division bell—which meant another good mark from the Whips. And we sat and watched and wondered—wondered how much longer the farce will be tolerated.

"REPORTING PROGRESS."

One of the funniest features of the sitting was the constant motion to "Report Progress"—there being, at the time, no progress to report.

AN OLD "WINSTON."

And one of the most pitiful sights was that of Mr. Churchill, round-shouldered and bent, arguing at four o'clock in the morning that the House was bound to pass the Clause before the milkman arrived. How tired and worn he looked! And how aged!

THE AUTOCRAT AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

The House of Commons is getting a little restive under Sir Edward Grey's autocratic rule at the Foreign Office. In reply to a question in the House of Commons the other evening, he gave his stereotyped reply: "Secrecy," he said, "is essential to diplomacy," and he has really little time to come down to the House of Commons to take part in debates or discussions, and to answer questions on foreign affairs. What nonsense! Whoever heard of such a plea being advanced by Foreign Secretaries during the last century? Lord Palmerston was at the Foreign Office longer than any statesman of his day. Lord John Russell was there in momentous times. They did not tell Parliament that they had no time to attend the House of Commons. They would have been amazed at the suggestion. The fact is that Sir Edward Grey is, at heart, out of sympathy with the Government, and that he retains his portfolio only on the condition that he shall be allowed to confine his attention to the Foreign Office.

SHREWD MR. CHURCHILL.

Mr. Churchill will listen, as much as they desire, to the kill-joys and cranks when they talk about Sunday Closing of public-houses, tobacconists, and even of milk-shops; but he won't hear a word against the newspapers. Artful Mr. Churchill!

THE ALIENS BILL.

Mr. Churchill's Alien Criminals Bill is a good one as far as it goes—but we think it might, with advantage, go a bit further. We rather like the idea of registering all alien immigrants who wish to reside in the country—but we would not give power to the police to demand from them at any time proof that they are obtaining an honest livelihood. That would be a new sort of Ticket-of-Leave system, and would give an altogether objectionable power to the police to harass respectable foreigners. Besides, we must remember that an Englishman in Germany, or France, or Russia is also an alien—and there might be unpleasant reprisals. The increase of the term of imprisonment in cases where a deported criminal alien returns to this country and the refusal of permission to aliens to carry firearms are, however, very reasonable provisions. But there are one or two excellent proposals in Mr. Goulding's Bill, and the Government will be well advised to adopt them.

A CUT AT THE PARTY SYSTEM.

We are watching the progress of the East Cork petition with interest. If Mr. Healy establishes his point, we may see petitions wherever the Tariff Reform League and the Primrose League and the Gladstone League and the League of Young Liberals have been busy and generous on behalf of candidates,—that is to say, in almost every constituency in Great Britain. Apart from our mistrust of political Parties, we consider that the Corrupt Practices Act has been turned into a farce when rich and powerful organisations are permitted to supplement the expenditure of a candidate to an unlimited extent. But the Act is in many respects a farce.

AN OBJECT LESSON IN UNCLAIMED BALANCES.

An interesting light is cast upon the question of unclaimed balances by a story which has been discovered by *The Westminster Gazette*. It appears that, soon after the death of William of Orange, a man named Travers left a sum of money for a statue to that monarch. A pedestal was erected in St. James's Square, but the bequest for a statue remained ignored for over 100 years. Then the money was "discovered" accidentally among some unclaimed dividends" and the work was completed. We are curious to know what comment will be made by those bankers who always pooh-pooh our allegations about the unclaimed money in their possession.

A PROBLEM IN POLITICAL ECONOMY.

Mr. Hobhouse, who has been deputising for Mr. Lloyd George, recently told us that he cordially endorses the view that the more our capital goes abroad the better it is for this country. Well, here is a simple proposition. An English merchant, having retired from business, has £20,000 to invest, and proposes to build a few houses with the money. He hesitates between a London and a Paris suburb, and, in the end, decides on Paris. Problem—find the benefit to England.

A LAUGH O' LAUGHS.

How our hon. friend Mr. Byles must have been laughing up his sleeve the other day, when he asked Mr. Runciman whether there is any method of bringing the policy of the President of the Board of Education into line with that of the Permanent Secretary. Though Sir Robert Morant has expressed regret for his patronage of the Holmes circular, we are in doubt whether the whole facts are out even yet. No real light will be let into the working of our public departments until we get a Business Committee of the House, with power to look into things.

FOOTBALL AND FAIR PLAY.

The Sussex County Football Association seems to have strange ideas of fair play. At a match at Horsham one of the players was cautioned by the referee. Thereupon he caught the official round the neck and punched him severely in the mouth, causing it to bleed. For this he was severely reprimanded by the Committee, but allowed to go on playing as usual. The following week a player in the Fishersgate team refused to give his name when asked by the referee, and was suspended for a fortnight. We think that the two punishments illustrate a deficient sense of proportion on the part of the Committee. The suggested explanation is that Fishersgate is a small village and inadequately represented on the Sussex County Football Association, whilst Horsham has always had a strong representative. Meanwhile, we do not wonder that referees in West Sussex are feeling somewhat nervous as to the protection they are likely to receive from the Association.

DIAZ DAY BY DAY.

There is no truth in the rumours of President Diaz's serious illness, but he is now so old that his resignation may be expected at any moment. Whether this will mean anarchy remains to be seen. The Mexicans have stood a great deal from their regenerator, but cannot be expected to submit so tamely to his successor, however eminent and able. On one occasion, when an Opposition candidate stood against him, Diaz made short work of him by clapping him into prison until the election was over. Such action by anyone else could not fail to provoke a revolution, in which case the Yankees would not hesitate to intervene.

ROUGH ON MONEY LENDERS.

A Bill has just been introduced into Parliament by Mr. Atherley Jones which, if passed into law, will make the lot of the money-lender anything but a happy one. It proposes that if he "takes advantage of the necessitous condition of a borrower by exacting extortionate interest . . . or acts in an oppressive or cruel manner," he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding a hundred pounds. The only loophole for the money-lender is the provision that interest or charges shall be considered extortionate "when in all the circumstances of the case such interest or other charges are in striking disproportion to the consideration passing from the money-lender to the borrower." We can imagine cases in which no conceivable rate of interest would be excessive; and, just as we stood up for justice to the publicans, we should like to see some provision in the Bill dealing with borrowers who take advantage of money-lenders.

"THE SAILOR'S FRIEND."

In spite of all the criticisms which have recently been levelled against her, Miss Aggy Weston is still busily pushing herself in advertisement columns. Two fresh points to remember about Miss Weston are (1) that she extorts sums of 30 guineas for the endowment of "memorial cabins," which turn out to be only cubicles, do not offer gratuitous accommodation, and are only distinguished by the name or photograph of the person commemorated; (2) while her circulars lay great stress upon her charity to sailors' families, she spent only £435 upon it in 1909, though she had made a profit of £639 out of her silly little magazine, and £1,116 out of her wretched "rests."

"TORTURE-SHELL."

Apropos of our recent paragraph, it is only fair to add that the tortoise-shell trade indignantly deny the statement that there is any cruelty in obtaining their material. We are glad to hear it.

HOW TO KICK THE BUCKET.

What is this we hear about the water at the Temple Balsall Council School? The supply had to be cut off for about a year on account of condemnation by the medical authority. But now the children dip their glasses into a bucket belonging to a well below the level of the churchyard, and the water is said to be unfit for human consumption. If there should be an epidemic of typhoid, we hope that due punishment will be meted out to the responsible persons.

THE VALUE OF STATISTICS.

We have always maintained, in connection with the Fiscal controversy, that nothing can be learnt from the alleged statistics of exports and imports, etc.—statistics, like the Scriptures, may be quoted to prove anything. In this connection, we would refer our readers to the remarkable figures contained in the article upon "Drink and Social Progress," appearing in another part of the present issue—based upon official figures—conclusively proving that sobriety is a bad thing for the nation!

FOR COLD, CROSS PEOPLE.

Surely hot-cross buns were nasty enough, without anyone wanting to make them of "Standard" flour, which used to be restricted to the manufacture of dog-biscuits.

NORTHUMBERLAND DRACOS.

The Northumberland magistrates seem determined to flout the prerogatives of the Crown. In January, 1910, they sentenced a girl of 17 to three years in a Borstal institution, and the Home Secretary immediately reduced her punishment to one month. The other day she came up again, on a charge of having stolen some pennies from a gas meter, and the Bench again gave her three years. We do not suppose that Mr. Churchill will permit the Crown to be flouted in this way, and we await his renewed intervention with confidence. To inflict savage sentences of this kind upon young girls for slight offences, even when oft repeated, is a monstrous abuse of magisterial authority, and we are looking forward to the time when a Lord Chancellor will import new, more human, blood into the magisterial system.

COUNTY COURT CURIOSITIES.

Recently an old man of 64 years of age, having a wife and earning 15s. a week, was ordered by the County Court judge sitting at Altrincham, Cheshire, to pay 8s. a month or be committed to prison for 21 days, in spite of his plea that he was unable to pay anything. Ten minutes afterwards, his Honour ordered a similar payment of 8s. a month against a young man earning 50s. a week, who had nobody to keep except himself, and who did not even attend the hearing. Probably 8s. a month is his Honour's minimum in all circumstances, and in all cases. But, if so, it ought not to be an irreducible one.

"WANTED, A TRAVELLING COMMISSION AGENT."

It will be recalled that a week or two since we had a word to say to Mr. E. D. Milton, of the Universal Church, Gillingham, Kent, concerning the issue of certain stamps bearing the effigy of Jesus of Nazareth and advertised under the above heading. Mr. Milton now sends a frank explanation. He says that, as an Anglo-American, his hustling ideas may not be "in keeping" with ours; "but I desired," he adds, "to get in touch with 'human documents' to whom 50 per cent. on sales would be a consideration. No money was asked for in advance, the stamps were sent on trust, and upwards of 50 per cent. of the men who received them, including your correspondent, failed to make any return. It was the possibility of this happening which caused testimonials to be asked for. Compare the apathy in the sale of these stamps with the zeal for those of Dickens." Why the Dickens should we? The point was, not Mr. Milton's hustling methods on behalf of the Universal Church, but his misleading methods. Naturally, travelling commissioners out of a situation received the stamps with a measure of disgust and annoyance, and for that reason declined to waste further postage on communication with Mr. Milton. However, he pledges his word to follow our advice. "The advertisement shall appear no more," he says; "the matter is for ever at an end." So be it.

A CITY "CALL."

The Rector of St. Stephen's, in Coleman Street, City, obtains the job by the novel process of a majority vote of the parishioners. One was thus appointed a week or so ago, and there were about 200 who heard the "call"—which is not much to be wondered at when we learn that the salary is £800 per annum, and the duties not at all burdensome. We wonder how many would have heard the "call" had the income been £80!

A FREEWILL OFFERING.

It is usual for the congregations of the various churches to make freewill offerings at Easter to their incumbents, but is not it rather unwise to issue printed cards, as many churchwardens do, announcing that "the collections on Easter Day, together with any further sums which may be handed to the churchwardens by those unable to be present at the services, will be given to the vicar as a freewill and personal offering to him, and will be received and applied by the churchwardens on that understanding only"? A correspondent, who sends us one of these cards, says "there are a number of people in this neighbourhood who are much more in need of money than this rev. gentleman." Not a doubt of it; but to he that hath shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath. We lost a bit at Epsom on this principle.

QUEER CASES.

Commenting on a charge made against a man at Bristol of ill-treating a horse by working it while suffering from sores, the chairman of magistrates said it was "the worse case he had ever seen": after which he let the defendant off. At the Somerset Spring Quarter Sessions, before the Right Hon. Sir Edward Fry, G.C.B., chairman, a man pleaded guilty to attempted suicide. His wife had separated from him on account of his drunken habits, and on his son refusing to tell him where she was, he cut his throat. For thus doing he was ordered to be detained in the Second Division for a fortnight. Then, shortly afterwards, up came another man, also for attempted suicide. Prosecuting counsel having stated that defendant "suffered from delusions in consequence of the illness of his wife and daughter, and threw himself into a well," the Bench sentenced him to three months' with hard labour. It is all the world to a crab-apple that if anybody is brought up at next sessions charged with a similar offence, he will have to listen to a sermon and accept a threepenny bit from the poor box.

ORDER! ORDER!

When the Rev. Mr. Halden, of Inverkeillor, declared in his despairing, at the meeting of the Arbroath Presbytery, that Christianity was a failure, he was greeted by his rev. brethren with cries of "Order! Order!" But the rev. gentleman was not to be put down. "Christianity pure and undefiled," he repeated, "has been such a miserable failure in Scotland and in England that we should ask ourselves whether we are in a position to teach missionaries and send them forth to the uttermost ends of the earth." Surely this is an amazing declaration on the lips of a Scottish clergyman. The truth is, we have had precious little Christianity to fail. It is not so much Christianity which has failed, but the professors of it. The veneer, the cant, the humbug of it has failed. Christianity used to be a life; the churches killed it when they turned it into sects and creeds. If the Nazarene were again to come among us in the flesh, He would undoubtedly be arrested for begging and "sleeping out."

DR. JOWETT'S SALARY—ETCETERA.

After all, the Rev. Dr. Jowett, who recently left Birmingham for Fifth Avenue Church in New York, has been unable to resist the Almighty Dollar. He announced before leaving England that he would accept nothing more than the equivalent of his salary in Birmingham. He has not only been persuaded that 12,000 dollars is the equivalent (his food will cost him more), but he has had to accept a present of a motor-car to shepherd his flock, also a "magnificent home," the annual rent of which is 8,000 dollars, on Fifth Avenue. It is hard lines; but we all have our troubles.

AVOID ARGENTINA.

Intending visitors to Argentina will do well to note the insecurity there for white women. We have before us a cutting of the *Buenos Ayres Standard*, relating an occurrence which appears to be by no means unusual. A girl of about 20 was waiting for a tram. Some soldiers passing in a carriage shouted obscene observations to her, and she took no notice. Then one of the soldiers jumped out and carried her off to the carriage where his companions gagged her. They took her to one of the public parks where they were joined by two mounted policemen, who assisted them in a criminal assault. The offenders were arrested, but it is not thought that any serious punishment will be meted out to them. In fact, drunkenness can always be pleaded in Argentina as an extenuating circumstance, and any wrong-doing on the part of officials is always hushed up. We understand that things are almost as bad in Brazil.

THE BATTERSEA DOGS' HELL.

Our article on the Battersea Dogs' Home has inspired a number of comments. We are even informed (but do not vouch for the fact) that when someone has lost a dog and goes to look for it there, he sees only a number of curs, all the valuable animals being kept out of sight. It would be interesting to know what happens to them, and what income is derived from a practice which sounds perilously like dog-stealing. It is stated that, although the law requires the police to keep dogs for three days, as a matter of fact they convey them to the Home the day after they have collected them. Another correspondent says that the Dogs' Home does not account in the yearly balance sheets for all moneys received. An item of 14s. 1d. is entered for the sale of bone-ash, but there is no mention of the large sums derived from the sale of dog collars, leads, etc. We are still awaiting Battersea's answer to our criticisms. Meanwhile, dog-lovers will do well to suspend giving or bequeathing anything to an apparently unsatisfactory institution. As lovers of dogs, we desire to secure the best possible treatment for those that get lost, and our columns are open for any explanation from the "Home."

WELSH BIGOTRY.

With reference to the deputation of Welsh preachers which recently waited upon Mr. Churchill on the question of Sunday closing of all shops, a Glamorgan reader tells us that "it is impossible to overstate the tyranny of the little Bethels in over-riding the rights of the people." He says he has voted many years for Home Rule for Ireland, "trusting that the priests would not over-ride the rights of other religions," but after living in South Wales, "which is infested with chapels (mostly half-filled)," he "begins to fear that it is not safe to trust clergy of any kind with the liberty of the people." He continues: "Contrary to the general wishes, they have closed every public-house on Sunday and even banned concerts in clubs; consequently the bulk of the inhabitants wander around in an aimless manner all that holiday." Few of the people go to chapel—many of them "dare not go to Church," and the views expressed by the deputation "are voiced only by the noisy few who desire more control over the people's rights." We quite believe it.

KENSIT HIMSELF.

Is nothing going to be done to prevent the pornographic Kensit from continuing to brawl in churches and disturb services? If a man disapproves of a certain ritual, it is surely quite easy for him to stay away. Kensit, however, seems to imagine that any advertisement is good enough to promote the sale of his indecent literature. By the way, what are the City Police doing about that little pamphlet to which we recently called their attention?

ONE TO US.

Apropos of Sidney Street, we seem to remember that certain foreign critics made very merry at our expense on account of the time and trouble taken to capture a few desperadoes. But now we hear that a similar difficulty arose when a criminal shut himself up in a house in Germany, also that it took eight hours for a great array of Russian policemen to dislodge four men who had entrenched themselves in a house at Lodz in Poland. We shall continue to remain sceptical whenever we find foreigners suggesting that they are capable of doing things better than ourselves.

THE HULTON COLLIERY DISASTER.

A great amount of money was collected to relieve the widows and orphans of the victims of this pit disaster. We shall be obliged if the committee in charge of the fund will forward us a statement as to its disposition. We are prompted to ask for this by hearing some very uncomplimentary remarks made by a number of old women who were returning from Bolton, where they had been to get their share of the fund.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

If you want to see how easily a chain of circumstantial evidence can be wrought around an innocent person, go to the Globe Theatre, where the wonderful play, "A Butterfly on the Wheel," by Hemmerde, K.C., and Neilson, M.P., will afford you an object lesson which you will not readily forget.

GOLDSMITH ON PARTY.

From Goldsmith's Anticipated Epitaph on Edmund Burke:—

Here lies our good Edmund, whose genius was such,
We scarcely can praise it or blame it too much;
Who, born for the universe, narrow'd his mind,
And to Party gave up what was meant for mankind.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

ANGRY SCOT (quarrelling with Irish friend): To blazes with the Pope!

PADDY: And to Hell with Harry Lauder!

OUR NEW NOBILITY.



"OF COURSE, IF ANY DIFFICULTY ARISES IN FINDING THE 500 NEW PEERS, PERHAPS THE RANKS OF THE PROFESSIONAL LEISURED CLASS WILL BE TAPPED."

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

For stating in an article, "I COULD SEE THE BACK OF THE COW through a large hole in one end of it. McManus was INSIDE and I called out to him,"

THE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE DAILY MIRROR

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "The Prince of Wales and his ELDER brothers are having a real good time,"

THE DAILY SKETCH

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating (according to an interview published in the "Sunday Chronicle"): "In England the poor are given free access to the art galleries, where MUSIC is provided for them,"

THE REV. DR. JOWETT

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Holloway is a very pretty boxer, and the gathering would have liked to see more of him, but he THROUGH AN ACCIDENT, recounted several interesting reminiscences of his 50 years' experience of the temperance movement. . . . Miss Alice Cole, of the Hounslow Congregational Band, sweetly sang 'Buy a Broom,' and Miss EVA ALTY, of the Victoria Road Congregational Band, Feltham, effectively WAS ALTOGETHER TOO GOOD FOR THE HOUNSLOW MAN, and the referee stopped the FIGHT in the first round."

THE MIDDLESEX CHRONICLE (HOUNSLOW)

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating of a gentleman eloping with a lady that, "Like young Lochinvar, he went west by swift MOTOR,"

THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of the local School Board election, "The three UNSUCCESSFUL candidates were members of the old Board. The constitution of the old Board has given GENERAL SATISFACTION,"

THE CAITHNESS COURIER

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following answer to a correspondent:—"P. P.—EIGHT MILLION EGGS, weighing 60,000 TONS, are yearly consumed in London, the eaters paying FOUR MILLION pounds for them,"

THE EVENING EXPRESS (LIVERPOOL)

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing "No connection with any OTHER parties in this line who are taking Goods away, and giving nothing for them,"

Mr. PETER WHITEFORD ("Rag and Metal Merchant, 23 and 25, Mill Street, Rothesay")

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "OWING TO the lamented death of the Earl of Carlisle AND the succession to the Peerage of Viscount Morpeth, no fewer than FIVE seats will be vacant when Parliament re-assembles to-day,"

THE DAILY MAIL

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "If the Celts are affected in any way by superstitious notions, they may have some doubts as to finishing on the right side to-morrow, seeing this is their thirteenth appearance in the final. Still, they will get past that number some time, and WHY NOT AT THE FIRST ATTEMPT?"

THE DAILY RECORD AND MAIL (Glasgow)

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that the eight hundred passengers of the Portuguese liner "Lusitania" "were rescued just in time to save them from a TERRIBLE FATE BY BRITISH WARSHIPS,"

THE DAILY GRAPHIC

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—VI.

THE PROFITS MADE BY THE COMPANY—FORTUNES OF DIRECTORS— THE TOLL OF AGENTS' SUICIDES.

THE PROFITS MADE.

At the end of 1910 the total assets of the Prudential Assurance Company amounted to £77,500,000, according to the recently published Accounts. The net disposable surplus, after £500,000 had been added to the Reserve Fund, was £1,958,404. The shareholders of the Company number about 200 persons, and they received, as their share of the 1910 profits, in dividend and bonuses, an average of about £2,825 per shareholder. In this one year they divided 226 times the original capital of the Company! If instead of one year we take the figures for ten years, 1901-10, we find that the 200 shareholders received £5,130,000 in dividends and bonuses, which works out at about £25,650 per shareholder.

The expenses of management for the year exceeded one million pounds, of which "Head Office Expenses" came to over half a million. How much of this vast sum went to the directors and managers is not disclosed. That these officials receive fat salaries, in addition to fat dividends, would appear evident from the wills of three of them who have died within recent years. Here are the sworn totals:—The late Mr. John Whately Simmonds, who was a director of the Prudential Company, left nett estate exceeding a quarter of a million—following close upon the fortune of well over half a million left a year or two ago by Mr. Edgar Horne, and of nearly £350,000 left by Mr. Harben, two other directors who have died in recent years.

Now let us see what the agents—those agents who, often at the peril of their souls, collected the millions which made these accumulations possible—got. A careful calculation made by Mr. David Jones, of Leeds, brings out the average weekly income of the agents in 1910 at £1 12s. 11d. each!

PREMIUM RECEIPTS—AND INSURANCE PAYMENTS.

And the policy-holders? In 1910 the policy-holders paid into the coffers of the company premiums of £12 4s. 7½d. for every £7 0s. 9d. received in return in claims, surrenders, grants, and bonuses. These figures include the Ordinary branch, where something like value is given for the money received. If they dealt with only the Industrial branch, the chasm between receipts and payments would be much more startling. The number of Industrial policies lapsed during 1910 was 1,345,000. These policies covered an assurance liability exceeding £12,000,000, and represented over £1,000,000 paid in premiums. This £1,000,000 was paid by men and women many of whom are often within sight of starvation. They might as well have thrown it into the Thames for all the good they have got from it.

Recently the agents, moved by their wrongs to agitation, have been working for what they call their Charter of Rights, a charter that has nothing in it opposed to justice, or which has not been granted by rival industrial assurance companies. If the whole charter were conceded, as asked by the 17,863 agents, and, in addition, better benefits were allowed the policy-holders, the two hundred shareholders of the Prudential would still be able, on the basis of the 1910 profits, to draw £300,000 per annum, or an average of £1,500 each.

A PLEA FOR THE AGENTS.

The managers of the Prudential will not listen to concession. A recent deputation of agents was received by Messrs. Harben and Dewey. They asked the Directors to concede the Charter of Rights, to grant Prudential agents the terms recognised by other companies. They were told in reply that no hope could be held out of any concession whatever in that direction. At the recent annual dinner of the Company, subsequent to its general meeting, when the Report and Balance Sheet were presented, Mr. Thompson, one of the Joint Managers, and a very ruling spirit in the organisation, is reported to have made two observations germane to the matters dealt with in this article. He said the Directors had become conscious that they had in their outdoor staff a body of "disloyal agents," and that the management would know how in future to deal firmly and sternly with "disloyal servants."

It might have been wiser to have considered whether the grievances were real, the demands reasonable. We do not suppose that Mr. A. C. Thompson would be moved by anything like an appeal to sentiment. The picture of



Statue of the Prudential director who devoted his life to an endeavour to alleviate the sufferings of the poor.

a Prudential agent, harassed by the incessant demand of his Superintendent for an increased book, and torn between the temptation to make the increase possible by resort to the tricks that filch the pennies of the poor, and the determination to remain an honest man come what might of it, would hardly appeal to Mr. A. C. Thompson. He would call it melodramatic, and not "business." And yet there is something to be said for fair treatment even from the "business" point of view. The shrewder among the slave-owners in the Southern States and the West Indies treated their "niggers" well, not because they loved them or thought they had "rights"—they were as free of such "nonsense" as Mr. A. C. Thompson himself can be—but because they knew that a well-fed, well-housed, well-treated slave was a better money-making machine than an underfed, ill-used rascal, from whom a good day's work was not to be got without resort to the lash. And may not it be the same with the agents of the Prudential?

True, the present position of the Company would seem to support the opposite contention. The Managers may think it sufficient to point to the figures we have quoted, and to others that might be given. Their system—unscrupulous, brutal, mean beyond words as it is—the system of the slave-owner of the lower sort—has succeeded. It has succeeded beyond the wildest dreams of its authors in accumulating millions upon millions for distribution among the two hundred shareholders of the Company. But success of this kind never has lasted, and never will last, very long. Its foundation is too rotten. Elated with the pride of possession, intoxicated by present success, the Managers of the Prudential believe their position to be impregnable. They are mistaken. A contented army of agents, satisfied policy-holders—then, indeed, Mr. A. C. Thompson and his friends might defy all-comers; but with policy-holders beginning to discover the truth about Industrial Insurance as worked by the Prudential, and certain before long to master the whole truth; and agents sick unto death at the miseries of their position, the prosperity of to-day may become the *débâcle* of to-morrow. A business that rests upon fraud and imposture cannot be long-lived. We said of the agents that they are sick unto death at the treatment they receive from the Company, and we have the right to say it. We give below a list of names of agents of the Prudential who have died in its service—died by their own hands, harassed to death by the incessant demands, the ever-present temptation we have spoken of above. We might have made the list much longer, but it will serve. We could have added quotations from letters left by these wretched men, who under fairer conditions might have been happy, contented citizen—addressed sometimes to their wives or parents, sometimes to their sweethearts—for many of them were young in years though old in misery—in explanation or defence of their mad act; but there is no need. Men who are not supremely miserable do not commit suicide. The men whose names are below, one and all of them agents of the Prudential, took their lives because life had ceased to be worth living. And the average of these suicides is rising rapidly. It is higher in 1911 than ever before.

A LIST OF PRUDENTIAL AGENTS WHO HAVE COMMITTED OR ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

Name.	Method.	Locality.
Roberts, G.	Hanging	Dartford.
Willingham, E.	Drowning	Tottenham, N.
Murphy, —	Revolver	Galway.
Attack, James	Cut throat	Scarborough.
Bickford, C. E.	Hanging	Honicknowle.
Ashby, —	Missing	Great Marlow.
Brook, J. C.	Attempted suicide with razor.	Huddersfield
Dunkley, G. A.	Shooting	Wellingborough.
Horspool, A.	Poison	Queen's Park.
Barlow, J. H.	Pistol shot	Lancaster.
Hewitt, A. E.	Poison	Birmingham.
Wheatley, J.	Shooting	Glasgow.
Hayhurst, W.	Attempted suicide by strangulation	Hull.
Newman, N.	Cut throat	Southsea.
Evans, T. A.	Attempted suicide	Montgomeryshire.
Robinson, —	Drowning	Rawtenstall.
Lewis, A. G.	Hanging	Newport.
Rostron, G.		Leamington.
Smail, J.		Brothwick Bridge.
Elliott, A.		Kingston.
Bailey, J.	Attempted suicide	Upton-on-Severn.
Clayton, C.	Cut throat	Chapel-en-le-Frith
Herrick, E.	Drowning	Camberwell.
Parsons, H.	Poison	Colchester.
Vass, A.	Temp. Insanity	Northampton.
Philip, S.	Pistol shot	Paddington.
Rolls, Ed.	Poison	Kennington.
Perkins, W. H.	Poison	Lecds.
Barlow, J. T.	Cut throat	Oldham.
Page, W. E.	Hanging	Liverpool.
Cox, A. E.	Drowning	Battersea.
Milstone, A.	Poison	Portobello.
Eckles, J.	Poison	Hull.

Name.	Method.	Locality.
Stockman, F.	Shooting	Huddersfield.
Hill, —	Temp. insanity	Skipton.
Clark, W. J.	Hanging from gas pipe	Upper Holloway
Clark, W.	Hanging	London.
Ashton, J.	Cut throat	Wigan.
Kirkham, R.	Drowning	Darwen.
Dalton, J. W.	Drowned	Dartmouth
Goodall, J.	Cut throat	Gillingham, Kent
Walker, G.	Killed on line	Kochdale.
Burns, H.	Revolver	Hebden Bridge.
Wilkins, G.	Poison	Glasgow.
Brackstone, G.	Missing	Lambeth.
Houghton, J.	Drowning	Runcorn.
Andrews, W.	Poison	Reddish.
Griffiths, J. W.	Hanging	Warwickshire.
Honeyburn, E.	Drowning	Thames Embank't
McKendrick, D.	Murder and attempt suicide	Glasgow.
Bailey, W.	Hanging	Keldhend H. Frn.
Gibbons, W.	Drowning	Ashby-de-la-Z'ch.
Barnes, H. A.	Cut throat	London, W.C.a
Wright, H.	Cut throat	Edinburgh.
Mill, S. G.	Poison	Stoke Newington.
Peasland, W. E.	Railway line	North Somerset.
Simon, F.	Hanging	Manchester.
Horniman, H.	Hanging	Birmingham.
Rogers, T. J.	Cut throat	East Dulwich.
Thompson, T.	Cut throat	Manchester.
Hope, Geo.	Drowning	S. Irlkirk.
Dunkinson, D. K.		Gosport.
Head, P.*	Murder and suicide	Annesbury
Hartwright, P.	Pistol shot	Streatham, S.W.
Phippen, H. E.	Poison	Plymouth.
Booer, A. W.	Drowning	Harwich.
Hill, Reuben	Cut throat	Charlton.
Haigh, J.	Drowning	Chesham.
Parsons, A.	Railway	Leeds.
Moss, E.	Cut throat	Ashton-under-L
Woollett, H.	Hanging	Chatham.
Gibbard, G.	Poison	Brighton.
Webb, George	Gun shot	Beddington.
Adams, A.	Drowning	Hackney.
Biggins, C. L.	Poison	Bradford.
Newton, G.	Cut throat	Welbeck Abbey.
Leitchford, J.	Drowning	Clapham Common
Smith, E.	Hanging	Queensberry.
Greenfield, S. W.	Cut to pieces on railway	Brighton.
Marsden, G.	Railway line	Newton.
Moorehouse, E.	Cut to pieces on railway	Warwick.
Lane, J.	Cut throat	Wellington.
M'Fall, P.	Drowning	River Leven.
Cowling, H. E.	Drowning	Tooting.
Palmer, A. G.	Drowning	Bermondsey.
Smithson, W. F.	Drowning	Burley-in-W'dale.
Taylor, J.	Poison	Pendleton.
Maurice, A.	Hanging	Devonport.
Melham, A.	Killed on railway	Plumstead.
Davison, W.	Hanging	Hastings.
Ambrose, W.	Drowning	Chatham.
Lamb, P.	Killed on railway	Edinburgh.
Eaton, H.	Poison	Battersea.
Gair, A. W.	Threw himself in front of train	Carnoustie Station
Smith, W. J.	Hanging	Rugby.
Davids, F. H.	Leapt from window	Holloway, N.
Hcald, D.	Drowning	Ravensthorpe.
Swainson, T.	Drowning	Bishop Auckland.
Chilvers, D.	Drowning	Skelton.
Wellsher, C.	Gun shot	Middlesex.
Hineash, D.	Gas poisoning	Kingston.
Green, T.	Cut throat	London.

* This Prudential Agent killed his six children and then committed suicide, leaving a note stating "he was worried over non-completed proposals."

THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

Next week we shall submit the Accounts of the Company to a searching analysis, and shall ask some pertinent questions as to its Investments. So far, we have assumed the great financial strength of the concern—to have discussed that aspect of the case, would have been wide of the object we have had in view. But in looking at the Balance Sheet and Revenue Accounts—we have been led to suspect that things are not as satisfactory as is generally supposed.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

SEE PAGE II. OF COVER.

THE CLAPHAM MURDER.**HAVE THE POLICE GOT THE RIGHT MAN?**

The answer of a British jury is in the affirmative. The Court of Criminal Appeal agrees with the verdict. The Police, of course are satisfied that justice has been done.

A great number of the thinking public, however, are of opinion that the murderer of Leon Beron is still at large, and we have been urged to make an attempt to solve the mystery.

Our Special Commissioner has already devoted some considerable time to the matter, and the result of his investigations should prove of interest in the near future.

In the meantime, he suggests that we should ask the police why they allowed the young scamp Rosen, to escape out of the country? Rosen was the lad who identified Morrison being in the company of Beron on the night of the murder. At the time he gave this evidence the police knew that Rosen had been in this country for only a few months, and that he actually had in his possession a return ticket to America. This they took from him. When it was found out that Rosen had perjured himself at the police-court—his landlord making an appearance in court ready to swear that the lad was in bed at the time he testified he had seen Morrison and Beron—what did the police do? They gave Rosen back his return ticket, and he slid off to America!

Another little item is that it is established beyond doubt that a *stallkeeper in Aldgate did sell Morrison a flute*. We can lay our hand on that man at any moment. He was, and is, ready to give evidence.

We must follow this matter up. Fortunately, Mr. Churchill has prevented what might have turned out to be a terrible legal tragedy, by, at any rate, sparing Morrison's life.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD AND ITS STAFF.

We commend the following letter to the attention of the Chairman of the Board:—

With reference to the Shop Hours Act, I would like you to enquire into the system of working of the Metropolitan Water Board. For instance, there are men employed putting in 12 hours per day and a 7-day week. Engine-men put 12 hours in per day, 6 days per week. Clerical staff 6½ hours per day, 5½-day week. What a contrast to being in an engine-room, tied for 12 solid hours! I think the public should know how their money is being spent. They pay excessive rates, but I can assure them the working employes do not get much. Enquire into their system of Stores management, contracting and what is wasted in stationery and stamps. We have some good officers, but their suggestions are ignored by the Board.

THE PUBLIC AND THEIR AMUSEMENTS.**UNSATISFACTORY CATERERS.**

At least a score of times have we drawn attention to the barefaced manner in which certain music-halls have deliberately deceived the public, by advertising "star" turns which never appear. The latest sinner in this respect is the Coliseum. On Saturday, April 15th, Cissie Loftus was billed to appear. One of our readers attended. The house was packed, but Cissie did not come before the footlights, nor was any explanation given as to her absence. It is true that another turn was put on in her place, and a very inferior one it was. Should illness, or any other cause, prevent an artiste from appearing, a notification should be posted outside the hall to that effect.

"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."**ANTICIPATED RUSH FOR MENTAL NURSING.**

"The Matron, The Retreat, York," has recently been advertising for probationers, and one of our readers applied for a post. The Retreat, York, is a Registered Hospital for the Insane. The qualities required for nursing of mental disorders are varied, the most important being patience and sympathy, tact, good sense, and cheerfulness. It also requires character. The duties are trying in the extreme.

Here are a few particulars as regards the conditions of service at the Retreat: The prospective probationer must first of all fill in a form giving full information as to her life from birth. Should the Matron, after its perusal, consider the application favourably, three years' training is offered, with the following remuneration—first year, £5; second year, £10; third year, £20. If the probationer manages to struggle through these three years (and it is by no means an easy task), she receives a certificate of proficiency from the Medico-Psychological Association.

The duties consist in the care and the treatment of the patients in the Retreat, under the direction of the Matron and the medical officers. The nurse must assist in the various occupations and amusements of the patients, in the service of meals, and in sundry household tasks. The hours of duty are from 7.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. In addition to meal times, one hour a day is free from duty.

The leave of absence allowed is one half-day and one whole day, on alternate weeks; a half-day on two consecutive Sundays; on the third Sunday, one hour; and, once in three weeks, four hours on Sunday or Monday. Board, lodgings, and washing are provided. Materials for uniform are also allowed. *The making of these uniforms will, of course, be done in the ample spare time at the disposal of the probationer.*

Whatever testimonials the management may have as regards the *cure* of the insane, it certainly seems to us that the establishment must be an admirable one for the manufacture of them.

BLACKBURN SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHER—AND "WRONG 'UN."**A WORD TO THE WESLEYAN METHODIST AUTHORITIES.**

Our information that James Cooper, of 5, Duke's Brow, Blackburn, has the audacity to conduct a Sunday-school class for ladies, is fully confirmed, the name of the place of worship being Trinity Wesleyan Methodist Church, Preston New Road, Blackburn. We think the authorities of the Wesleyan body can hardly be aware of Cooper's double life and, therefore, proceed to give them a summary of a few of the facts in our possession.

Under the name of "James Eastwood," with an accommodation address at 31, Heathland Road, Stoke Newington, he became chairman of a swindling company named the Re-Stor Institute, possessing a cash capital of £3. The concern was registered on February 18th last, and immediately issued from 1, St. Agnes' Place, Kennington Park Road, a list of bogus testimonials purporting to be from persons supposed to have been cured, some of the "cases" being numbered over 4,000. We then exposed this fraud, and, becoming frightened of a prosecution for obtaining money by false pretences, Cooper and his two associates (who also pass under aliases) withdrew the "testimonials" and struck out all references to cures in the circular letters with which they pester people reluctant to become victims.

One of the gang (the secretary, a man named Warren, passing as "Terry") has apparently fled, Cooper taking on his job and leaving with a tool at Kennington a rubber signature stamp, in order that his alias of "Eastwood" may appear on the fly traps which are being energetically sent out from there.

What does the great Wesleyan Methodist body say to their disciple? Before allowing him to act as an instructor in religion, did they make any enquiries regarding this rascal's doings in Manchester and other towns, when he travelled about as a football referee?

A WINDSOR WORTHY.

THE ROYAL BOROUGH'S PRIDE.

The name of Alderman Walter P. Reavell, J.P., of Windsor, must be inscribed upon the roll of fame as one of those who have made England what she is. Mr. Reavell recently celebrated his jubilee as a total abstainer, and our contemporary the *Christian Herald* took advantage of the occasion to give an appreciatory sketch of his life, or that side of his life dealing with the glorious virtue of negation. To the *Christian Herald* the nation owes its sincere thanks, for it has given the just reward of publicity to one who truly deserves it. It is our pleasure and privilege to do all in our power to prevent the worthy Walter from losing an iota of that reward, and we call our readers' attention to what appears to us to be the most important item in the panegyric:

"He (Alderman Reavell) was a member of the Board of Guardians for about fourteen years, in which capacity he moved unsuccessfully for nine or ten years that no beer be given to the inmates of the Union for Christmas fare, but at length his proposition was carried and ever since beer has been tabooed."

Where now are those who say that the men of perseverance and determination were the exclusive product of past generations? With unflinching courage and unflagging zeal, Alderman Reavell kept pegging away for no less than a decade. There have been men who have devoted years of their life to medical research with the sordid idea of decreasing the sum of human illness; others have been content to fritter away the valuable years in work merely calculated to add to the comfort and well-being of the people. But these frivolous pursuits have no attractions for Alderman Reavell. And for this the nation should rejoice, for if the great Walter had allowed these minor considerations to turn him from his life's work—the only work worthy of so great a mind—the inmates of the workhouse at Windsor might still, as each Christmas comes round, be subjected to the degrading offer of a pint of beer in which to drink the health of the Guardians and the ratepayers. Thanks to the herculean efforts of Alderman Reavell, that terrible calamity has been averted. The ten years of devoted toil have had a fitting reward—a pint of beer has been taken from each pauper. It can be no surprise to learn that the name of so public-spirited a man is "well-known in the Royal borough of Windsor," and our readers will be prepared for the further intelligence that when he was elected Mayor, he introduced non-alcoholic wines at the inaugural banquet. This touching solicitude for his fellow aldermen and councillors, this desire to prevent them from becoming the victims of their own debased appetites, is indicative of a truly great and tactful mind. It shows that the worthy Alderman, at any rate, is determined that there shall not be one law for the pauper and another for the people.

FROM THE GALLERY.

"The lad was taken ill in the gallery of a music-hall, where, an attendant stated, boys often faint because they are half-starved."—FROM THE REPORT OF AN INQUEST.]

There isn't no dinner for father,
And mother she ain't had a bite,
The baby is white with starvation,
So we're off to the hall to-night.

There's none of us had any breakfast,
Not a crumb that would gladden a mouse;
So we've raked up our coppers together,
And we're off to the gaff—second 'ouse.

If there isn't a good shirt amongst us,
Nor soles to our boots, what's the odds?
Thank Gawd, we can still muster tuppence
To buy a front seat in the "gods."

The world is all dreadful around us
For once we'll get out of the strife;
No matter if stomachs is empty
Ere I—give us two penn'orth of life!

R. M.

DISGUISED QUACKS.

A WARNING TO HYPOCHONDRIACS.

Morbid persons, who are the pre-disposed victims of quacks, should be warned against some rascals who style themselves the Appareil Magnetique Ltd. (27, Great Eastern House, 20, Bishopsgate Street, E.C.), the Health Culture Co. (22, Budge Row), and the *Vitality Magazine*. They have issued a pretentious pamphlet called "Magnetism in Sexual Diseases and the Philosophy of Health."

After a great deal of twaddle about magnets, magneto-ignition and magnetic energy, we are treated to a dissertation about the magnetic influence of Buonaparte, Cicero and others, and we are sanctimoniously informed:—

Alas, it is too true that this force can, and is, put to a bad use. Pure men are often smitten beneath the magnetic current of some highly magnetic harlot, while pious maids frequently become the prey of bad men of strong magnetism.

But, of course, the Appareil Magnetique Ltd. would not dream of putting the forces of Nature to bad use. Oh, dear no! They give us some horribly disgusting pictures of comparatively rare forms of decay, and they cunningly describe the symptoms so as to suggest that most of us may detect them in ourselves. They kindly warn us against other quacks, against ordinary drugs and ordinary medical treatment; then they invite us to arm ourselves for the pursuit of health and virility by purchasing from them magnetised pieces of charcoal to induce sleep, "magnetic leggings" to be applied to our calves, magnetic foot batteries, and various belts, bandages, etc., alleged to restore strength to the degenerate.

Of course, none of these appliances are of the faintest use, and it is merely our money which the Appareil Magnetique Ltd. and the Health Culture Co. want. At the same time, worse even than the loss of money, is the morbid influence which is aroused and which cannot but do infinite harm to unfortunate dupes.

BRISTOL TRAMWAYS COMPANY AGAIN.

REMARKABLE TREATMENT OF A RESPECTABLE LAD.

We notice that this Company has been prosecuting a lad of 17 for travelling on one of its cars without a ticket. It came out in evidence that on the day in question this lad, who was a stranger to the district, boarded the car at Kingswood and purchased a penny ticket. It was his intention to journey to St. George's Church; not knowing the district he failed to alight at the end of the penny ride. When asked for the ticket, he immediately produced the one he had taken, and when it was pointed out to him that an additional fare was due he tendered the money forthwith. But this would not satisfy the inspector of the Company, who summoned him for attempting to avoid payment. There was not a scrap of evidence to sustain this charge, and a number of witnesses went into the box to speak on behalf of the character of the boy. It seems that he is one of the pioneers of the Boy Scout movement, and he had received a special reward of merit from General Baden-Powell. The Vicar of St. Luke's, Barton Hill, spoke in high terms as to his character, and others gave similar evidence to the magistrates, who, notwithstanding, had no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that the lad had attempted to avoid payment of the fare, and so fined him 5s. and costs. In directing our attention to the matter a Bristol correspondent says he considers it a monstrous sentence. He writes:—

On the morning of the very day on which this case was heard I rode on a car on the same section. I know it well, and know the various stages at which the fares change. I was reading a copy of JOHN BULL, and was so engrossed that I did not notice that the car had passed the Whiteway Road section to the next, and on the conductor standing in front of me I showed him my ticket for the previous section, and after giving me a very dubious look he reminded me that we had passed that section. I immediately gave him a penny for the further section, which he took, and nothing further happened. On reading the report of this case I realised what a risk I had run, and thought what would have occurred if that officious inspector concerned in the case had happened to examine my ticket before the conductor had approached me.

It is monstrous that a respectable lad should be haled before the magistrates and fined because he did not pay his second tram fare until the conductor asked him for it

IRELAND UNDER ENGLAND.

I.—THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

BY M. J. NOLAN.

The cause I desire to make against a great Government Department in Ireland (the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction) is that this Department does not perform the functions for which it was established—that the extremely liberal endowment allowed to it by the Exchequer is squandered in salaries to useless officials—and that such teaching as it does carry out is of a kind wholly opposed to sound ideas.

I will first briefly state the spheres of activity which now appertain to "The Department," as it is shortly called. It enters into every movement connected with agriculture, with horticulture, with the improvements in horse-breeding, cow-keeping, poultry-rearing, and in all manufactures carried on in Ireland, and also with the selling of all Irish products.

It will be apparent to all that the head of such a vast enterprise ought to be a man who has had the handling of a large commercial or agricultural undertaking. Under him should be heads of sub-departments, each drawn from the special sphere of trade he would be concerned in, and each provided with an adequate staff of experts, actually drawn from the trades in question.

AN IDEAL VICE-PRESIDENT!

However, Ireland has been too long the happy dump-ground for British statesmen, where they can always place their hungry party dependents, to allow the formation of such an institution to pass without serving some who had deserved well of their party. The Vice-President, Mr. T. W. Russell, has not sprung from any of the eligible occupations above-mentioned; he has no knowledge of agriculture, of horticulture, of the rearing of domestic animals on a large scale; but he was a worthy party hack, he is a Scotchman, and he keeps a temperance hotel! He has the sole appointment of every individual in the Department; and to his entire control is delegated the spending of about £445,000 per annum, the revenues of the Department. It may be alleged that there is a Board of Agriculture, which exerts a veto on his proposals. But the members of this Board are entirely at the will of the Vice-President; they know little of business, and they automatically endorse his decrees.

The result has been the appointing to important positions of men whom the Vice-President delighted to honour—those who helped him in his political campaign in Tyrone—Scotchmen in shoals, brought from his native country across the Tweed, and almost all of the correct official religion. What is the result?

A GREAT INDUSTRY.

Over 98 per cent. of the fruit, forced vegetables, and forced flowers which are used in Ireland are imported. But the Department has not a single book or pamphlet on their cultivation, nor any person employed on its staff who has been engaged in their production on a commercial scale. The Department issues its oracles through the medium of certain publications called "Leaflets." While there is no leaflet concerned with most of the above commodities, yet we have a special leaflet, dealing with the collection of wild blackberries and sloes! This is Leaflet No. 93. The figures quoted in this leaflet show that a gross average of less than 1d. per pound may be obtained by hunting wild blackberries all over the country—or about 7s. a week! Picking up cigar-ends were a much more profitable occupation. This is placed before the poor Irish as a promising "industry," while the English and Channel Islands growers are landing scores of thousands of tons

of choice produce in Ireland annually, all of which might be grown by the Irish, had they but competent persons to show them the best methods. Here are two more cases, in connection with this wild blackberry hunting, which illustrate the helpless condition of the "experts" at the Department: I asked them whether the blackberries were to be pulled from the roadside hedges, possibly contaminated by dust, or from the field hedges, the intrusion upon which must entail scores of trespass summonses. They replied that "*landholders do not usually object to pickers gathering blackberries on their land*"!

I wonder how landholders will fancy having their enclosed lands invaded by hordes of tramps, to break down fences, and to pick up—with the blackberries—whatever else may offer.

HERETICAL ECONOMIES.

There is also a bit of very choice economic doctrine contained in this leaflet. They tell pickers to be sure to sell only to such "shippers" as are already in the business, and whose names will be supplied by the Department, as "*an increase in the number of shippers will increase competition for orders, and bring about a diminution in price.*" Poor Ireland! The greater the number of buyers of your produce, the less will be the price! Let the intelligent readers of JOHN BULL apply for a copy of this Leaflet No. 93, which will be supplied *gratis* by the Secretary, D.A.T.I., Upper Merrion Street, Dublin, before it is "out of print," like many of its brethren. I was refused the names of the "shippers" by the Department. I think there is a savour of the *Trust* about those shippers, and their names would be interesting indeed. I conceive they would be found Good Templars, Rechabites, Scotsmen, and sound supporters of their Party.

THE CONSUMPTION BOGEY.

To another business. We have been dinned to deafness by the cries of "Consumptive Ireland." Leaflet No. 69, issued by the Department, may account for the dissemination of this terrible disease throughout Ireland. That leaflet is entitled: "The Prevention of Tuberculosis in Cattle," and it was first published in November, 1905. At the bottom of page 2, referring to cattle which are "*obviously unsound*," namely, in a very advanced state of consumption, we have this advice: "*Unless they are of extraordinary value for breeding purposes, they should be fattened for the butcher as soon as possible.*" This leaflet placed the unfortunate Irish, and those who bought Irish meat in England, at the mercy of every unscrupulous farmer and butcher. Millions of the microbes of this horrible disease must have been sent throughout the three Kingdoms, while prosecution was impossible, as it was done at the express command of the Government. This wretched leaflet was in circulation for over two years, and an edition was published in February, 1908, leaving out this advice; but those who obtained copies of the first leaflet were not specially informed of the new publication, and thousands of persons are, as yet, unaware of it. When I, who had the first leaflet, but knew nothing of its countermanding, asked the Department to inform me whether the law against the sale of tuberculous meat, or their leaflet, was to be taken as the more correct, they invited me to an interview, and, thereat, I was informed by a high Scotch official, Professor Campbell, that the advice could do no harm, "*because you cannot fatten tuberculous cattle for the butcher*"!

IN DEFENCE OF CLERICAL OPULENCE.

A WALSALL VICAR TO THE RESCUE.

Here is another clerical defence of clerical wealth. Let it never be said that we do not give both sides of a question! This is from the *St. Matthew's (Walsall) Parish Magazine* :—

A QUESTION.

My attention has been called to a list of Clerical Wills, showing that recently some clergy had died worth from £93,916 to £8,308.

I also noticed the quotation of certain texts :—

- (1) "Sell all thou hast and give to the poor." (2) "Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth."
- (3) "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle," etc., etc., with the remark, "Evidently these good men did not practice what they preached."

All this is so exceedingly easy to put down on paper. But the writer forgets—

1. That there is room in the Kingdom for the rich as well as the poor, though their entrance be harder.

2. That both Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were rich men; who could not have performed the sacred duties of embalming and sepulture unless they had been well off.

3. That while some men are really called upon to embrace a life of poverty for their soul's sake, this is not everybody's vocation—be he priest or layman.

4. Yet if poverty be not our vocation, Christ's teaching must at least bind us all to a new and strict estimate of necessity and luxury in personal expenditure, and a very scrupulous care of the disposal of what remains over, that it may do good, and not harm. That is the real difficulty. And the writer of this shallow notice, before he can deduce anything derogatory to wealthy clergy or their teaching, must go on to show that in the DISPOSAL of their wealth, they were absolutely careless, and really did more harm with it than good.

The whole paragraph is an example of that brusque, off-hand judgment that almost every poor man writing for his living, is obliged to pass on his fellow-men, in order to attract attention. The expedient is a very common one.

And, appropriately enough, the same issue of the magazine contains a striking illustration of "scrupulous care of what remains over"—in the list of "Offerings for March." Let us take a few of the items: "Church Expenses," £26 2s. 5d.; "Curates' Fund," £39 17s. 3d.; *Rescue work*, £1 6s. 1½d.; *Sick and Poor*, 2s. 2½d. Oh! the hypocrisy of it all!

WHOEVER CAN IT BE?

A MYSTERIOUS STORY FROM "TRUTH."

We cull the following from the "New Pepys" page of *Truth*. Whoever can it be?

Also came Squillinger, who is full of tittle-tattle and tell me of a well-known M.P.'s getting so horrid tipsy the other night that, for the avoidance of scandal, 'twas given out by his friends that he have been seized of an apoplecktick vertigo and (to lend a nicer colour to the story) he was sent home in an ambulance with a Doctor in attendance. So when they reached his house, "Prithee, my good man," quoth the Doctor to his patient's butler, "Help me convey your master to his room. He have been taken of a cerebral seizure; yet is there no cause for alarm, nor for disturbing the family; for he will soon recover. So let all be done as quietly as may be." "Aye, sir," says the butler, well knowing his masfer's favourite vintage, yet with no vestige of a smile on his face, "Mumm's the word." We must really raise this, as a matter of "privilege," in the House!

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See page ii. of cover.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CXXXIX.

A MOTHER FLEADS FOR HER FIVE CHILDREN.

We have made enquiries into this case, and we find the statements of the letter to be true. The husband, a deal porter, is now in the infirmary. After having been out of work for seven months, he got some temporary employment in road mending for the Borough Council, and it was whilst he was exposed to the bitter weather of a few weeks ago that he contracted his present illness. There are five children, of whom the eldest girl is fourteen years of age and the youngest two years, all totally unprovided for. If any of our readers can help the mother they may rest assured they will be assisting a deserving case :—

Hearing that you are so good to the poor, I am writing to ask you if you can help me a little. My husband was taken to the Infirmary last week, and I am left with five children to provide for, and, owing a little rent, the landlord has threatened to put my things in the road, and that will mean going in the workhouse and being parted from my children. I have never asked for such a thing before, and if you could help me with ever such a little I would willingly pay it back when my husband gets to work again.

Sir, I could not put a stamp on this as I have not a penny in the world.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named :—

- CXXXII.—C. E., 2s. 6d.
 CXXXIII.—H. M. C., 1s.
 CXXXIV.—"A Little Helps," 2s. 6d.; H. M. C., 1s.
 CXXXV.—K. and G., 1s.
 CXXXVI.—H. M. C., 1s.; "Clericus," 2s.; K. and G., 1s.
 CXXXVII.—"Baldon," 2s.; T. McE., 5s.; N. A. N., 5s.; "Muckle," 6d.; "Fortuna Dieu," 1s.; F. H., 5s.; "Widow," 2s. 6d.; O. G. R. P., 1s.; J. J. J., 1s.; H. M. C., 1s.; "Clericus," 2s.; K. and G., 1s.; C. G., 5s.; T. G. J., 5s.; "Dot," 2s.; "Sympathisers," 2s.
 CXXXVIII.—"Honest Freemason," 5s.

THE FRAUD OF INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS.

AN EYE-OPENER.

We have often expressed suspicions about certain rubbishy articles which are advertised by means of medals and prizes obtained at foreign exhibitions. Now we have been favoured with circulars which throw further instructive light upon the business. Joseph Kaiser, Esquire, "Commissioner General and Official Delegate of International Exhibitions," invites anybody and everybody to take part in the "Great International Exhibition of Arts and Manufactures" to be held at the Palais d'Orléans, Paris, from May 4 to November 2 of this year.

He offers to represent them "before the public and jury," to make certain that "their exhibits shall be awarded first honours (Grand Prix or Gold Medal)." All he asks in return for this service is a fee "from £50 upwards, to be paid half on allotment and the balance on receipt of the official notice of award for Grand Prix or Gold Medal."

He also encloses a prospectus of this year's International Exhibition at Liège, and offers to do business on the same terms. This prospectus is adorned by a portrait of Albert, King of the Belgians, and we notice that the Committee of Patronage includes S.A. Monseigneur le Prince Edouard de Looz-Block—whose ideas of business seem to be rather loose. Further facilities for prizes and medals are offered for an exhibition in London this year.

So now we may surmise something of the precise value to be attached to the awards of International Exhibitions. Meanwhile, perhaps Albert, King of the Belgians, or His Highness Prince Edward of Looz-Block, or Joseph Kaiser, Esquire, will kindly inform us whether prizes are entirely restricted to subscribers of £50—also who gets the £50. Failing satisfaction from one or other of them, we beg to inquire of Parr's Bank how they come to permit their name to be associated with so transparently dishonest a circular.

DRINK AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

FACTS FOR TEMPERANCE REFORMERS.

By T. GOOD.

For many years—for generations, indeed—we have been told that the great enemy of mankind is drink. If only men would drink less they would think more. If only we could lessen the consumption of drink more money would be spent on food and clothing, trade would improve, employment would expand, wages would rise, pauperism, crime, and lunacy would decrease, if not vanish altogether, and the social millennium would set in. This is the doctrine constantly dinned in our ears by the so-called temperance advocates. But what are the facts?

Sir T. P. Whittaker, M.P., writing in the *Westminster Gazette* recently, supplied the following figures, among others:—

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES—CONSUMPTION PER HEAD
(UNITED KINGDOM).

	Beer Gallons.	Spirits, Gallons.	Wine, Gallons.
1900 — —	31.56 ..	1.12 ..	0.38
1910 — —	25.99 ..	0.65 ..	0.28

These figures show per capita decreases of 5.57 gallons of beer, 0.47 gallons of spirits, and 0.10 gallons of wine, and Sir Thomas calculates that we spent £46,500,000 less in drink in 1910 than we should have spent had we drunk as much as we did ten years earlier. If, therefore, current Temperance Reform theories are correct, these last ten years should have brought substantial progress—industrially, socially, economically, and morally. Let us see.

Turning first to wages we find, according to Board of Trade Returns, that since 1900 wages have risen in three years and fallen in seven years, and Mr. L. G. Chiozza Money, M.P., tells us, in the *Daily News*, that, putting increased cost of living against wages, "a very real decrement has been suffered by all classes of wage-earners."

Turning next to employment, we find that in 1900 an average of 2.5 per cent. of our trade unionists were out of work, but that in 1910 the average was 4.7 per cent., and there was this growth of unemployment in spite of increased emigration. In 1900 the net number of British emigrants was 71,000, but by 1910 conditions had become so bad that 200,000 of our people were glad to get out of the country.

Turning now to business matters, we find that between 1899 and 1909 (latest figures to hand at the moment) the number of our bankrupts increased from 4,045 to 4,517, and that the number of debtors committed to prison went up from 7,867 in 1899 to 9,157 in 1908.

Taking next statistics of pauperism, we find that in England and Wales, between January 1st, 1900, and January 1st, 1910, our indoor paupers increased from 199,000 to 270,000; outdoor paupers from 503,000 to 539,000; casuals from 9,800 to 17,400; and pauper lunatics from 72,000 to 93,000, the total number relieved having increased from 807,000 to 942,000.

But that is not all. Between 1900 and 1910 the number of workpeople injured by accidents in our factories and workshops increased from 79,000 to 117,000, and the number of our miners killed went up from 1,012 to 1,812.

On top of all this, the number of persons tried for indictable offences rose from 50,000 in 1899 to nearly 70,000 in 1909.

It comes to this, then, that in spite of all the gas of the water drinkers, a decline in the consumption of alcoholic beverages has been accompanied by a growth of poverty, crime, lunacy, and accidents.

MAN, THE MORMON.

WHY SUFFRAGETTES ARE UNPOPULAR.

For interesting articles on the above, and many other subjects—and a variety of useful and unique features see—MRS. BULL.

BRITISH TOWNS RULED BY WORKING-MEN.

POOR MEN AS MAYORS NOT AN UNCOMMON OCCURRENCE.—
HOW KING EDWARD KNIGHTED A WORKING STONEMASON.

The inability of the aldermen of Dublin to make up their minds concerning the salary to be paid to the city's Lord Mayor, who is a news vendor, resulted in remarkable fluctuations, first from £3,600 a year to £1,600, then up to £3,600 again, and finally back to the lower figure, draws attention to the fact that the Irish metropolis is not the only city in Great Britain that can boast of a working-man mayor. It is a question whether Great Britain cannot show a more democratic record in this respect than the United States, popularly supposed to be the land *par excellence* of unrestricted opportunity.

It has happened, in two cases at least, that mayors of English communities have actually risen from the workhouse. Will Crooks was born in the workhouse, and it is impossible to imagine a more humble beginning than that. Yet he was elected Mayor of Poplar and a Member of Parliament. One of the most respected citizens of the city of Devonport, Alderman Hornbrook, who served as mayor with distinction, was born in the workhouse of the same town.

A former mayor of Leeds, Alderman Scarr by name, when he was not maintaining the dignity of the highest office in the gift of his fellow-townsmen, was the industrious dispenser of pennyworths of sweets from behind the counter of his modest store. The contrast seems even greater when it is said that he put off his apron to don his robes of office to welcome the late King Edward and Queen Alexandra in the name of Leeds when they opened an extension to Leeds University.

Another workingman mayor can boast of a similar royal association. The Welsh city of Cardiff chose William Crossman, a stonemason, to be its Lord Mayor during the year in which King Edward had promised to pay a visit to the city. The late King became so interested in this man of the people that he determined to show it in an unprecedented manner and, much to Crossman's surprise, tapped him on the shoulder with a sword, saying, "Rise, Sir William."

Alderman Bond has several times been Mayor of Plymouth, but those who knew him years ago, when he began his career as a boy in a local solicitor's office, would not have predicted that he would one day be the city's chief magistrate.

The police force would hardly commend itself to the casual observer as a stepping-stone to the mayoralty, yet two chief executives have reached their high position by that route. Kingston-on-Thames several years ago elected Councillor Clarke mayor. His admirers made two unsuccessful attempts before they succeeded in landing him in the Mayor's chair, largely because some of the residents of the town found it impossible to resign themselves to the rule of their former policeman.

Blackpool, the Lancashire "Brighton," once elected Alderman Brodie to the mayoralty, despite the fact that he was particularly fond of telling of his experiences as a member of the force in Manchester.

Timothy Owen, one of the most popular residents of Aberavon, Glamorganshire, was a signalman on the railroad when his neighbours expressed their desire to invest him with the office of mayor. On the occasion of his first visit to church after assuming the high office, he had a curious bodyguard of three hundred railwaymen, headed by the general secretary of the labour union to which he belonged.

THE "JOHN BULL" BIOSCOPE.

A series of Bioscope views, depicting how JOHN BULL and Mrs. Bull are produced, is being shown in various towns and cities on the cinematograph of the "John Bull Entertainments." To-day (Thursday) the car will be in Crawley; Friday and Saturday, Horsham; Monday, Hayward's Heath; Tuesday, Lewes; and on Wednesday, Brighton; and readers and their friends in the districts should not fail to see these well-known periodicals "in the making."

A FANATICAL J.P.**AN ILLUMINATING EXAMPLE OF TESTOTAL BIGOTRY AND LOGIC.**

A copy of the following letter has come into our hands :
69, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

21st March, 1911.

W. G. Austin, Esq.,

Clerk of the Peace,

Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.

DEAR SIR,—I am very pleased to learn from your circular letter of the arrangements for decorating and seating the exterior of the Middlesex Guildhall, and thus associating the County Justices with the Royal Coronation Celebration.

I shall be glad to have the two seats offered, and enclose herewith cheque for £5 5s., but as you explicitly state that the cost covers the provision of champagne and other wines I am compelled to stipulate that no alcoholic liquors be purchased on my account, and that whatever proportion of my contribution would be thus spent be allocated to some other and harmless item.

I do not presume in any way to dictate to or reflect upon my brother Justices, but as a lifelong abstainer, a member of the Executive of the United Kingdom Alliance, and a past executive officer of the English Grand Lodge of the I.O.G.T., whose pledges preclude both imbibing and furnishing intoxicants, I should be recreant to my pledge if I contributed tacitly to the association of our national drinking customs with a public manifestation of loyalty and patriotism, believing as I do that the so-called moderate use of alcoholic stimulants is the foster parent of intemperance, and a very large contributory cause of most of the evils which call for the exercise of our magisterial functions.

I would gladly double my contribution to the fund if it pleased my brother Justices to dispense with intoxicants at the function, and so depart from a custom, the breach of which would, in my judgment, reflect more honour and greater loyalty than its observance.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN KEMPSTER.

The idea of knocking off the refreshments and doubling the price of the seats is as fine a specimen of logic as the rest of the letter is of tolerance. Mr. Kempster had better spend Coronation Day in the Zoo.

"A 'MARRIAGE' TANGLE."**OFFICIAL ACTION FOLLOWS OUR EXPOSURE.**

The mock marriage ceremony celebrated in a Fulham Catholic Church, the particulars of which were reported in our issue of April 8th, is looked upon by the authorities at Somerset House as a serious matter, and we understand that they are taking action in regard to it. Meantime the mother has been able by strategy to take her child from the father. She also applied to Mr. Fordham at the West London Police Court for an Affiliation Order. This, however, was refused—the genial magistrate telling her that she was married. We can only assume that Mr. Fordham, in the pressure of work, did not go fully into this complicated case. Be that as it may, the Somerset House authorities agree with us that it was an illegal marriage, and that the birth certificate of the child is incorrect. We have handed over the documents to the Registrar-General, and we shall watch the development of this case with interest.

THE BATTERSEA DOGS' HOME SCANDAL.

Since going to press with the first portion of this issue, we have received from the Secretary of the Home a letter replying to the various allegations contained in our recent article. The substance of this communication will appear in our next issue.

A WORD TO MR. CLOUGH, M.P.**A MORAL DUTY APPARENTLY OVERLOOKED BY A HIGHLY MORAL MAN.**

During the General Election of January, 1910, a Mr. Arthur Overing, of Barnoldswick, was engaged as a sub-agent for the districts known as Clapham and Burton-in-Lonsdale, to assist in the candidature of Mr. Clough, who was seeking re-election for the Skipton Division of Yorkshire.

On January 11th, 1910, a meeting in support of Mr. Clough was held in a school at a village called Newby. The erection of the building had not been completed, the workmen still being in possession. The proceedings were announced to commence at 7.30, and Overing, having finished his arrangements by 7, stepped outside the front door, when he fell down an opening which led to the furnace used for heating the premises. He fell a distance of 8 ft. It was a very dark night, and there was no railing or protection of any kind round the opening. When, to use Overing's own expression, he "came round," he at once caused the place to be fenced, so as to protect the people who were beginning to arrive. Though suffering intensely, he stayed during the meeting, and was then conveyed by motor-car to his lodgings. A doctor examined and prescribed for him, but was very reticent as to the state of his right leg, which was much swollen, but he expressed the view that if it was well again in a year's time, Overing would be lucky. On the Saturday morning, the man returned home, intending to lay up for a time; but on receipt of a letter from Mr. Clough's agent asking him to return to his post if at all possible, he came back and resumed work until polling-day (January 25th), sometimes going about on crutches and at other times using a cab which had been placed at his disposal.

After the election, Overing returned home, in order to give his leg complete rest for at least a couple of months, as the pain was increasing, and wrote Mr. Clough to that effect. In reply, he received the following:—

Feb. 3rd, 1910.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to hear of your disablement. You have shown a good pluck! You would find Clapham awfully blue. Nothing but rest is what you require. Take some weeks of it, and after that I trust you will be able to "leap as a hart." I enclose cheque for £8, and remain.—

Yours truly,

WM. CLOUGH.

At home, Overing was examined by another doctor, who pronounced the injury to be a fractured shin bone, the break being a vertical one, which pressure on the ankle caused to open, thus giving him great pain, and ever since Overing has had to use either crutches or sticks, and will never be able to dispense with such artificial aids.

On March 28th, 1910, Mr. Clough wrote Overing as follows:—

DEAR SIR,—My visit to you on March 19th gave me the impression that you might then have been fairly well-restored, if you had taken every care and rest. However, I enclose another cheque for £2, which will be my final voluntary contribution and communication to you, upon this subject.—Yours truly,

WM. CLOUGH.

Overing applied to the West Riding County Council (the owners of the building) for compensation, but after much correspondence the Clerk to the Council has convinced him that that body is not liable and that responsibility rests with Mr. Clough. But by this time the prescribed period of six months, within which notice of an accident must be given, has expired, and Overing therefore fears that he has been engineered out of court. He, however, asks, "What about the moral aspect of the matter? Mr. Clough is clearly liable, and, bearing in mind his attitude in the recent case, does the 'mantle fit the man'? It is now months since the accident took place, and I can get no redress from him. There was no question of work being badly done. I stayed at my post despite the pain. Mine was no empty profession of faith, but work carried out, and often in extreme agony. Result—a permanent injury, and ignored by my employer."

Surely, we have no need to urge this moral aspect upon a good man like Mr. Clough?

FINDING THE "MISSING LINK."

For particulars of a most fascinating and profitable Competition see this week's **MRS. BULL**.

£100 DISTRIBUTED WEEKLY.

IS CANADA WORTH KEEPING?—XI.

THE FOX AND ITS TAIL—THOSE "IMPROVED FARMS"—AGRICULTURE IN ONTARIO A "DYING INDUSTRY"—DECREASE GREATER THAN FIGURES INDICATE.

Our Commissioner on the "Free Lands" writes as follows:—

Having toiled like a galley slave, with enthusiasm and determination to do all the things the immigration literature says you are compelled to do, you find the land is bad. You may go mad and kill yourself if you like; but the Canadian Government likes to encourage you. I have before me a pamphlet issued "by direction of the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada." It has in it a number of questions and answers. Here is something concerning the point I raise.

Should a settler accidentally settle upon a quarter section of land which will not repay the labour expended on it, he may apply to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Ottawa, stating fully the case and asking for permission to change his entry. If the Commissioner is satisfied that the settler is entitled to a change he will grant it on a payment of a fresh fee. That is, you may have permission to abandon your log-house, your well, your fences, your broken land, and all the other works that cost you money and labour, and will have permission to try your luck elsewhere if you pay for it.

THE FOX AND ITS TAIL.

The same pamphlet says:—

Settlers who have friends and relations in other countries often benefit themselves as well as the country at large by informing them how they themselves have prospered, and pointing out the chances of making independent and comfortable homes in the great Canadian West.

Even in Canada there are many foxes who have lost their tails, but judging by what I have learned on the spot from dozens of homesteaders, I feel that Canada holds thousands who came out to make "independent and comfortable homes," and would like to make it their mission in life to warn others.

Let me ask the would-be immigrant from home—How can you carry out those works, pay for implements, labour, and seed, and at the same time comply with the conditions imposed by the Government? For each of the first three years you must reside on the land for six months per year. If you have no money, you must go somewhere during the six months of decent weather—the only time there is work to be had—and earn it to keep yourself. Then you come back to your homestead for the six months of snow, when the deposit is about four feet over your ground. This is your opportunity for breaking the land, for going and hewing your timber for fencing, and drawing it home. Think it out. And remember that the Government will evict you without the slightest compunction if its rules are not carried out.

THOSE "IMPROVED FARMS."

Listen to the Government pamphlet again:—

Before leaving his homestead the new settler should leave a post-office address at which he can obtain his letters while away. He may not intend to be off long, but circumstances may occur that will take him further and keep him longer than he intended. If he is not careful he may overstay the time allowed for absence from residence, and may find on his return that his homestead entry has been cancelled and taken up by someone else. Better be sure than sorry.

There you are. You are absent without Government leave for a few weeks, and you return to find that your farm, with its house, well, fences, broken land, crops, and everything else, has been sold to the stranger and you have no claim upon it! This is not

the imagining of JOHN BULL's Commissioners. It is the sober statement made in a Canadian Government pamphlet, entitled "Canada and the New Century." In their zeal to create enthusiasm the writers included this information. Possibly the authorities at Ottawa, Mr. Obed Smith and others, will regret that it was written. Such holdings are those mentioned on the windows of the Canadian Government offices at Charing Cross—"Improved Farms for Sale."

FROM TORONTO.

Our Commissioner at Toronto continues as follows his description of life in the capital of Canada's great agricultural province, Ontario:—

In a previous letter reference was made to the decrease of the rural population of Ontario, "the banner agricultural province of Canada," as shown by the Canadian census returns, the latest figures available from that source being those of 1901. The Provincial Bureau of Industries, a branch of the Department of Agriculture, publishes annually a report of agricultural and municipal statistics, including population, compiled largely from the returns of the local assessors. These are carefully classified and tabulated, distinguishing between urban and rural districts, and though not as exact as the Dominion census returns, yet, taking one year with another over a long period, they afford a fair criterion of the changes in local conditions.

AGRICULTURE A "DYING INDUSTRY."

The report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries for 1910, bringing the figures down to 1909, which is now in Press, contains a startling confirmation of the fact that, while the growth of the towns and cities has latterly been phenomenal enough to give an apparent semblance of truth to the boast of "progress" and "prosperity" so much in evidence in after-dinner speeches and immigration literature, the staple industry of agriculture, which underlies all enduring prosperity, is steadily declining. Figures are given covering a period of 20 years, from 1890 to 1909, inclusive, showing the total population classified under the headings "townships," "villages and towns," and "cities." The increase in the total population has been slow. It was 1,917,544 in 1890; 2,013,860 in 1900; and 2,289,438 in 1909. The cities, however, have been rapidly expanding. Their combined population at the outset of the period was 424,770, which in 1900 had risen to 503,707, and in 1909 to 725,120. The villages and towns had also increased, though not in an equal proportion, the figures being 375,241 in 1890, 415,907 in 1900, and 515,078 in 1909. The townships, the homes of practically the whole farming population, show a steady decrease from 1,117,533 in 1890 to 1,094,246 in 1900; and 1,049,240 in 1909.

DECREASE GREATER THAN FIGURES INDICATE.

These figures, impressive as they are, do not tell the whole of the story. Although practically every farmer or farm worker, with the exception of a very few who may be just within the limits of an urban municipality, is a resident of a township, not all the township population is engaged in agriculture. A large and increasing number of the genuine rural population are engaged in lumbering and mining. With the opening of the mining industries in Cobalt, Porcupine, and other camps in Northern Ontario, tens of thousands of miners and prospectors have gone to the mining districts. A classification of the population by occupations, instead of by residence, would show a considerably greater decrease in the number of farmers and farm labourers than is indicated by the above figures.

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"MAD!"

BY WILFRED MOORE.

Yes. I'm mad. Quite mad. Raving, roaring, ravenously mad. Mad as a Red Indian, or a South Sea Cannibal, or a trapped rat, or a free tiger, or a hungry wolf—or a—
Curse you, don't look at me like that. But—no; no; don't go away. I want to tell you. I want you to know.

Yes, I killed them. They were *mine*. What did it matter to anyone? I killed them. I kill them every night. I go through it all again and again, here, on this floor, in this cursed padded cell. Every night. They smile at me *now*, because they know that I saved them.

They were sweet children, all of them. Four dear bright-faced happy little angel-eyed darlings. Until I fell out of work. Until your class—damn you—hounded me down. No, no, I forgot. I'll not shout again. Listen. I got the "sack." I'd been there twenty years and then they put me off. Twenty years. I knew no other work and could get none. My children got thin, and pale, and miserable, and ill. Once bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked happy little scamps became wan, miserable, whining skeletons.

My dear wife worked herself to a sort of ragged ghost. Ha! ha! she did look a freak. Excuse my laughter, but I killed her too, bless her. Yes, I saved her as well. She comes and kisses me every night when I'm curled up in that corner, and we talk, she and I, about the old days. The happy days. The days before I got the sack. Oh, the splendid times we had. The pleasant home-coming from work, the joyous tea-time with my merry, hearty, happy children around the table. How she used to tell me of all their dear little funny sayings and doings during the day. Then the game of baiting the bear after tea, with myself as the bear. The romping, and laughter, and fun, and noise. And then the bed-time trip upstairs, one on each arm and one on my back.

I know about them, though. I remember them. Oh! yes. I know of them, and I want *you* to know of them. It was your class who did it. You are smug visitor. to this place now come to see that we poor creatures are well done by. Well, hear some wisdom from the lips of a madman. Why don't you see that we are well done by *before* we get here, and then there'd be fewer patients to visit. Damn you, you are too intent upon—No, no, I forgot. I'll not rave again. Let me tell you all, now I have started. When I lost my job I lost everything. Work, food, fire, light, love, joy, smiles, comfort, everything that was good to have. My furniture went, my clothes, my dear wife's rings. Her wedding ring. Her wedding ring. All went. When I came home from failure to get work my children did not run to meet me with merry shouts and laughter. They came whining for bread. Bread. Only bread. And I had none. These children who had always had plenty, wanted bread. When I rushed from the house and took some from a baker's shop; they fell on and devoured it like wolves.

You locked me up for taking the bread, you remember, and when I came out one of my little ones was *dead*. Dead. Dead. You had put him under the ground, and I—his father—had not seen him. The neighbours came in to quiet my ravings, but they soon went out again. Ha! ha! They didn't like my looks.

Later, I saw that this little one was better off. He was not suffering now. He was not being starved to death, slowly murdered. "He was better off." The kind neighbours first told me this to calm my violence. And the kind neighbours were right. He *was* better off. The others should be better off too.

All night long I sat beside them and kissed their cold, clammy faces. I fondled them and nursed them, and sang to them. There they are down there in a row. Look, curse you, look. You made me do it. Look. Look. On that old sack with another old sack over them. That's their bed—has been for months. Look at them all in a row. All dead. All gone to somewhere better than this. I did it. I did it for love of them. I've told you all now. If I could reach you I'd sink my hands into you and tear out your hearts to show you their blackness. You and all your class. Curse you. Damn you. You have—

The visitors did not wait to hear any more.

FINE FEATHERS.

A PLEA FOR THE UTILISATION OF PLUMAGE.

A parson has been printing a poem on a postcard for purposes of propaganda. This is how it begins:

Read, Madam! Having read you shall not dare
Those furs and feathers e'er again to wear.

Now we are staunch opponents of cruelty to birds, beasts or fishes, but we do not go the length of objecting to their use for food and raiment. We are not sure that we altogether admire garish carcasses on the head-gear of females, but we think a plausible case has been made out for the feather trade.

An interesting fact, if not an overwhelming argument, is provided by statistics. It appears that we export every year no less than £1,600,000 worth of raw plumage to France alone. We are therefore to remember that, if women ceased to wear feathers, an important trade would be destroyed. Our French friends would have still more serious ground for complaint, as their feather industry represents a business involving about £6,000,000 a year, and employs no less than 50,000 workwomen in Paris alone. It is a decent, well-paid occupation, and affords work to a class which might not easily find anything else to do. In view of these facts, we submit that this trade should not be suppressed unless for serious and sufficient reasons.

Now what are the reasons alleged by humanitarians? Lord Avebury's Bill of 1908 (now being revived) proposed to forbid the wearing, purchase or sale in Great Britain of any feathers except those of ostriches and the birds we eat. His argument, with which we agree in principle, was that it is deplorable to find the most beautiful kinds of birds becoming extinct just because female vanity is flattered by their destruction. Experts assert that 140 species have ceased to exist during the last 500 years, and that about 50 more are on the verge of extinction. It must, however, be borne in mind that man is not solely or even primarily responsible for this destruction. Natural causes, such as change of climate and varying conditions of existence, have had more to do with the disappearance of the more delicate birds than any amount of shooting and trapping by men. Moreover, one bird preys upon another, and various wild animals are partial to their eggs. If we are to protect rare species effectively, we must check not only the enterprise of hunters, but the rapacity of beasts. We might almost have to start vast schemes of drainage or afforestation and prevent the cultivation of virgin lands.

In any case, Lord Avebury's Bill is foolish and futile. It proposes to prohibit the importation of certain feathers. The only result of this would be to transfer a flourishing British market to the continent. If we voluntarily abdicate our trade in the raw material, it stands to reason that some other country will take it up. Besides, what a puzzle for custom-house officials, whose wits are already sufficiently taxed! Ornithologists have classified some 20,000 kinds of birds, and even so they are by no means in agreement as to the families to which many kinds belong. And if the determination of raw feathers would be difficult, that of manufactured ones would be utterly hopeless. The feathers of common barn-door fowls, as well as those of the rarest birds, undergo the most marvellous transformations during the process of preparation for the market. The shapes and colours are entirely altered, and we defy the most painstaking expert to recognise with any certainty the precise nature of the average prepared feathers.

The question of cruelty is also an open one. It is a great mistake to imagine that feathers are ruthlessly torn out of living birds. If they were not collected for exportation, they would be left to rot on the ground. Even natives never dream of killing an aigrette, the bird honoured by the special sympathies of sentimentalists.

Let us protect birds by all means as far as we can. But the best way to do this is by encouraging an industry which makes men regard them as valuable and preserve them with care. The truest kindness to the feathered race is to make it worth men's while to breed birds in their native lands and acclimatise them in comfortable farms where they can live their lives in happiness and safety. Humanitarians are doubtless actuated by excellent motives; but, like Moses in Egypt, they often make matters worse by uninformed and misdirected efforts.

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Ideal for Lounge, Sporting and Holiday Wear—**

is a hat which should form part of the wardrobe of all men who value a combination of Comfort and Good Style. Primarily intended for Neglige Wear—it serves that purpose through and beyond. When a Cap would not be permissible, the "Aero" would be in good taste—apart from being more Stylish and more Comfortable. . . . For Evening Wear . . . Garden Wear . . . Golf . . . Cycling . . . Tennis . . . Boating—for all but strictly formal occasions—this hat is ideal in every respect.

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. . . It is made of a good quality felt, so soft and pliable that the hat can be folded and put into one's pocket. It is practically waterproof; heavy rain might penetrate it, but would not injure it. It is made in the following colours:—Dark Green, Light Green, Light Brown, Dark Brown, Grey, Black, and White.

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SAD SATURNALIA.

BY JIM CROW.

[Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective; cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.]

A Bank Holiday always puzzles me. I cannot do work in a holiday atmosphere, and I hate playing in public. But someone told me that Hampstead Heath would be a wonderful sight, so I went there on Easter Monday, determined to do things democratically. The Tube was all right at Charing Cross. Indeed, I had most of it to myself. But each station multiplied my companions until I was in the midst of a perfect plethora.

TERPSICHOE IN THE TUBE.

Then the fun began. Four of the fattest females I have ever seen, their faces streaming with the oil of gladness, their corkscrew curls inspiring thoughts of thirst, started an original song and dance up and down the corridor. Deep reflection and an intimate acquaintance with choreography did not enable me to place the tune. When they tried to fold their arms over their *embonpoint*, I scented a horn-pipe. Rolling progression and retrogression conjured up visions of quadrilles on roller skates. Sometimes I was reminded of the Oriental stomach-dance, sometimes of the amorous exercises of the Bal Tabarin, sometimes again of Salvation lasses in the full frenzy of a revival. A frequently recurring figure consisted in suddenly sitting down upon the nearest knee like a sack of coals, and when an old gentleman's cigar had been banged into his face about six times, the fun could justly be regarded as fast and furious. I made up my mind to attach myself to this joyful party for the rest of the day. Alas, they were not bound for Hampstead, but left me sorrowing in the prosaic neighbourhood of Euston.

A CRUEL CLIMB.

I should then have escaped one of the dreariest entertainments imaginable. My troubles began on the platform of Hampstead station, which was so densely packed that I expected to have to climb a ladder and walk on people's heads. There must have been the fag-end of at least half a dozen train-loads, helplessly struggling to approach the narrow exit. Here, methought, would have been an ideal spot for the execution of a song and dance. But every face seemed anxious and solemn, steeped in the seriousness of the business of pleasure. Very slowly, like cream oozing through a hair-sieve, we drifted towards the lifts. But to wait for those conveniences must have meant hours, perhaps even suffocation. So I heeded the voice of a ticket-collector, who proclaimed incessantly that it would be far quicker to walk up the stairs. For once, like a fool, I believed this liar, who ought to be packed off at once to Exeter or buried with Ananias and Sapphira or sentenced to read the works of my lord Macaulay.

MOB MANNERS.

We have the authority of a poet for the fact that "Hell is a city very like London." The suburb at the outlet of this bottomless pit did not conform with my preconceived notions of Paradise. The houses were sallow and sullen, the aimless crowds looked sad, and the only evidence of animation was to be found outside overcrowded public-houses. Everywhere, however, I was amazed by the polite, orderly, benevolent aspect of the crowd. No one pushed, jostled, shouted or behaved in a manner unsuitable to a drawing-room, a funeral or a Quakers' meeting. The supposititious revellers were not glum or sulky, but just serious, decorous, determined to be genteel, conscious of their heavy responsibilities. I could have sworn that they had all just been ordered to find sureties for their good behaviour. They no more dreamed of letting themselves go than they would have done in a church or a witness-box. Save for their set faces, I should have described them as good-humoured, but humour would have horrified them almost as much as blasphemy. They were nice, kind people, making way for each other in the thickest throng, chivalrous to the countless women who carried peevish babes—Cockney conversationalists in discreet undertones. If a similar spirit could have come over a crowd of foreigners you would have seen them raising hats and curtsying at every turn.

I confess the sight made me somewhat sad. Where was the old British independence, the devil-may-care arrogance which move mobs to revolutions? A flock of sheep would have been more aggressive.

PEACEFUL PLEASURES.

I stood on an eminence and surveyed the dense masses of holiday-makers surging like a very calm sea. The most amazing impression was one of silence. At the fête de Neuilly or the fair of Nijni-Novgorod or any similar Continental concourse, you would have been listening to the roar of breakers rather than to this rippling murmur. Hundreds of hurdy-gurdies, electric orchestras, blaring bands, would have competed in wild, discordant tumult. Men and women would at least have run and shouted and danced, and given themselves over to Bacchanalian orgies. Here, in Hampstead, there were just a few stale tunes accompanying merry-go-rounds, where young men and women formed a queue, mounted most deliberately, and went round anything but merrily. A rare barrel-organ attracted quite a host of stolid spectators, mournfully watching a few feathered hoydens who jumped up and down in melancholy measure.

A HORROR OF HORSE-PLAY.

A certain traffic was done in instruments of pleasure. Anxious merchants offered little brushes at the end of toasting-forks and drawled, "Here you are. A penny the tickler. Lots of fun for a penny." But the purchasers were too modest or too dignified to extract any fun from them at all. They carried them as though they were half-ashamed of such childishness. They bought rattles and hesitated to make them work. The most I could hope for was that they would take them home to amuse their young. Oh, dear! oh, dear! what a funeral feast! In sheer desperation I expended a penny on a stick with a mop of coloured paper streamers. I ran about and agitated it in the face of a little girl with beautiful auburn hair, but she merely gazed at me in supercilious wonder, and her severity reacted upon me like a cold douche. I had evidently committed a solecism, and people began to stare. Some young men muttered sour things about "bad form," and a lady in bugles informed a companion, whose hat was bedizened with paper feathers, that I ought to know better at my age.

THE FUN OF THE FAIR.

There must be no boisterous hilarity on Hampstead Heath. If we seek pleasure, we are to take care that it is intellectual. We may buy great broad-sheets of sentimental songs, we may consult palmists and phrenologists, we may try our weight or throw darts at a target if we promise not to exhibit excitement. There is even a sort of gambling game in which no one ever seems to win. A number of cups and clocks and statuettes and chocolate-boxes are spread out on a great round table; we buy wooden rings at seven for 3d., and we may have any of the articles if our ring settles down all round it; but I have a shrewd suspicion that the rings are too small for the purpose. We may eat flyblown biscuits and stale sandwiches, oysters at 8d. a dozen, and luscious winkles after their kind, but we can obtain nothing stronger than ginger-pop unless we force our way back to the suburb.

A PLEA FOR PLEASURE FOR THE POOR.

What a disillusion! I had been told that the spontaneous gaiety of this great carnival would baffle the wildest imagination; that men and women would exchange hats, cut capers, rag, yell, play endless practical jokes; that any well-dressed person needed police protection against the humours of the mob. And here I found the mob showing signs scarcely distinguishable from melancholia. Mind you, I admire the dignity and reserve of my people. But I do wish they could have a better time during their infrequent carnivals. How sad and significant it is that they have never learned the simple art of amusement. The so-called upper classes, the drones and parasites of Society, are brought up to live for distractions. All their education is directed towards enjoyment, games, killing time, anything which enables them to ignore the serious side of life. But the workers, the creators of the national wealth, have their noses kept so persistently to the grindstone that they never learn to play. Their natural joyfulness has suffered atrophy from long disuse. I fear that they will need new minds, a new point of view, all the determination of rebels, before they can teach themselves to make holiday, before they can hope to restore the blithe traditions of Merrie England.



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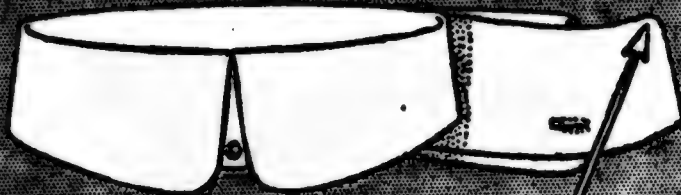
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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To Mr. Justice Ivory.

MY LORD,—One of your recent pronouncements induces me to say a few words. You talked a great deal of nonsense about boxing. It would perhaps be unfair to expect you to be acquainted with the noble art of self-defence but it would be a good thing if you could try to master the elements of the subject before dilating upon it. You declared that "if the parties met intending to fight till one gave in from exhaustion or injury, such fight was unlawful," and the onlookers, as well as the participants, were guilty of manslaughter, but "a sporting sparring match, fairly conducted, with no intention of continuing the fight until one gave in from exhaustion or injury, was not unlawful, and if death ensued, it was misadventure only." Now I ask you to collect your wits together and inform me why there should be anything criminal in fighting to a finish or looking on at a fight to a finish. In point of danger to life and limb, a ten-round contest, or even a one-round contest, might quite easily be much worse. Knock-out blows do not depend upon the length of a match, but upon the capacity of the competitors. Nor are their intentions to persevere any safeguard against misadventure. If you have interpreted the law correctly, the law must indeed be asinine. But perhaps you have not. At any rate, I am not prepared to accept your dictum—any more than I was in the old days, when we spent those months together at the Guildhall. JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. John W. Courbold Warren, Caistor St. Edmund.

REV SIR,—I have been reading the very remarkable proceedings in the Norwich County Court in which you were the defendant. Conduct such as was disclosed on your part in this case, sir, would be mean and contemptible in any man, and in one who is a clergyman it seems to come into the superlative category. What was your position in this matter? You had inherited from a wealthy lady, Mrs. Green, of Caistor Hall, a sum of £110,000, though you were no relation to her, her husband being left without a single copper under her will. Prior to her death, Mrs. Green gave to an intimate friend, a Miss Flood, the furniture of a bed-sitting-room which she had occupied at the Hall, as well as a few trinkets. You did hand over to her some of the furniture and trinkets. Other things you retained to the value of a paltry £40, and Miss Flood, who had performed highly appreciated services for the lady whose large fortune you inherited, had to go to the County Court in an action for detinue in order to obtain from you by law the few things which you refused to return in equity. To crown all, my reverend friend, you had not the courage to go into the witness box to dispute Miss Flood's rights to the gifts she claimed. The solicitor for the plaintiff described the defence put forward by your solicitor as mean and despicable, terms which, in my opinion, are a restraint of language to use in regard to you. In the end, the jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, and the judge made an order against you for the full amount claimed, with damages in addition. What does your congregation say?

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Emanuel Hart, Alma Square, St. John's Wood.

SIR,—Madmen in Oriental countries sometimes acquire a reputation for sanctity by spitting at people indiscriminately. You, however, are not acclaimed as a prophet in your own country by reason of your filthy habit of spitting at policemen. You may or may not have reasons for viewing the force with disfavour, but I should advise you in your own interests to express your feelings more decorously in future. Now that you have reached nearly 60 years of age and have had some 46 years' experience as a City merchant, you really ought to know better than to behave in this nasty, childish way, and I confess that I feel no special pity for you in your fine of £20 with an alternative of two months' hard labour, particularly as you appear to have been indulging in your pastime for quite a long time. You should remember that, according to modern ideas of hygiene, you might be spreading consumption or some other horrid disease among the force, and that, though curates have sometimes been called spittoons, those useful articles are not interchangeable with the representatives of law and order.

JOHN BULL.

To Councillor W. Elliott, Nottingham.

DEAR SIR,—I do not recall having heard of your being upon the earth until I became aware of the almost insuperable mental difficulties in the way of the correct registration of your vote at the last meeting of the City Council. I gather you are a Nothingarian by conviction and an Undecidedarian by choice; but, of course, I cannot say for certain, being so far away. First you voted for an amendment, and then when the Clerk had got you down as "for" you said you meant "against." He therefore altered it to "against," when up you jumped again and said you would vote "for." Having altered it back, you told the clerk you were really "against," and I suppose if somebody had not shouted out, "Put him down doubtful," you would have wobbled about until the Day of Judgment. If I had been the Town Clerk I should certainly have put you down as "Both-ways," William. After all, to be for and against everything and everybody at the same time is an indication of that carelessness in municipal life which is so necessary to the attainment of fearless and irreproachable service. Bless you, my son; you are a credit to the City.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Wheatley Ridsdale, Burnham.

DEAR MISTER,—Who in the world are you? Anybody in particular? I ask the question because I notice that you are making a precious deal of fuss, and that a few others are helping you, over your offer to place "Hill House grounds" at the disposal of the Burnham Coronation Committee for the purpose of the festivities. My information is that you are an ordinary householder with an ordinary status, and that Hill House grounds are an ordinary meadow. I should have supposed, therefore, that you would have made your offer in the ordinary way. Instead, I find you demanding as a condition the exclusion of all Dissenting ministers because they are "ardent supporters of a party which is known to be financed by avowedly disloyal persons, the Nationalist party." Go to, Mister Ridsdale, go to! If you cannot do such things decently and with tolerance, you should not do them at all. The Coronation Committee ought to have refused your field when they knew the condition of acceptance. A gift tainted with bigotry is worse than no gift at all.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. William Cromie, Harlesden.

DEAR PARSON,—You are evidently a funny dog. I can sympathise with your horror when one of your curates turned up with a fringe of fungus on his upper lip, and I compliment you on the instincts of cleanliness which prompted you to obtain its removal. I have also enjoyed the humorous way in which you informed your vestry meeting of your success:—

I tuk him on the platform with me the other noight, and keeping him hidden at the back, I stepped forward and said: "I am sure that you will all be very sorry to hear that there is one amongst us who has just sustained a severe loss." I stopped here, and ivery one looked terribly serious.

Then I showed them my curate, and I said: "Ut's Mr. Whalley, and he's lost the tip off his lip! The vestry meeting had to be themporarily suspended in the ginerall rejoicings."

The only thing I am not quite sure about is whether a vestry meeting was quite a fitting place for such antics. Of course a vestry is now little more than a useless survival, without power or influence; but it possesses fine traditions as one of the earliest expressions of representative government. However, I forgive you in consideration of your successful war against whiskers.

JOHN BULL.

President, Divorce Court.

Notice heavy list undefended Divorce actions. Apparently yours most popular Court of the day. You are evidently right man in right place.

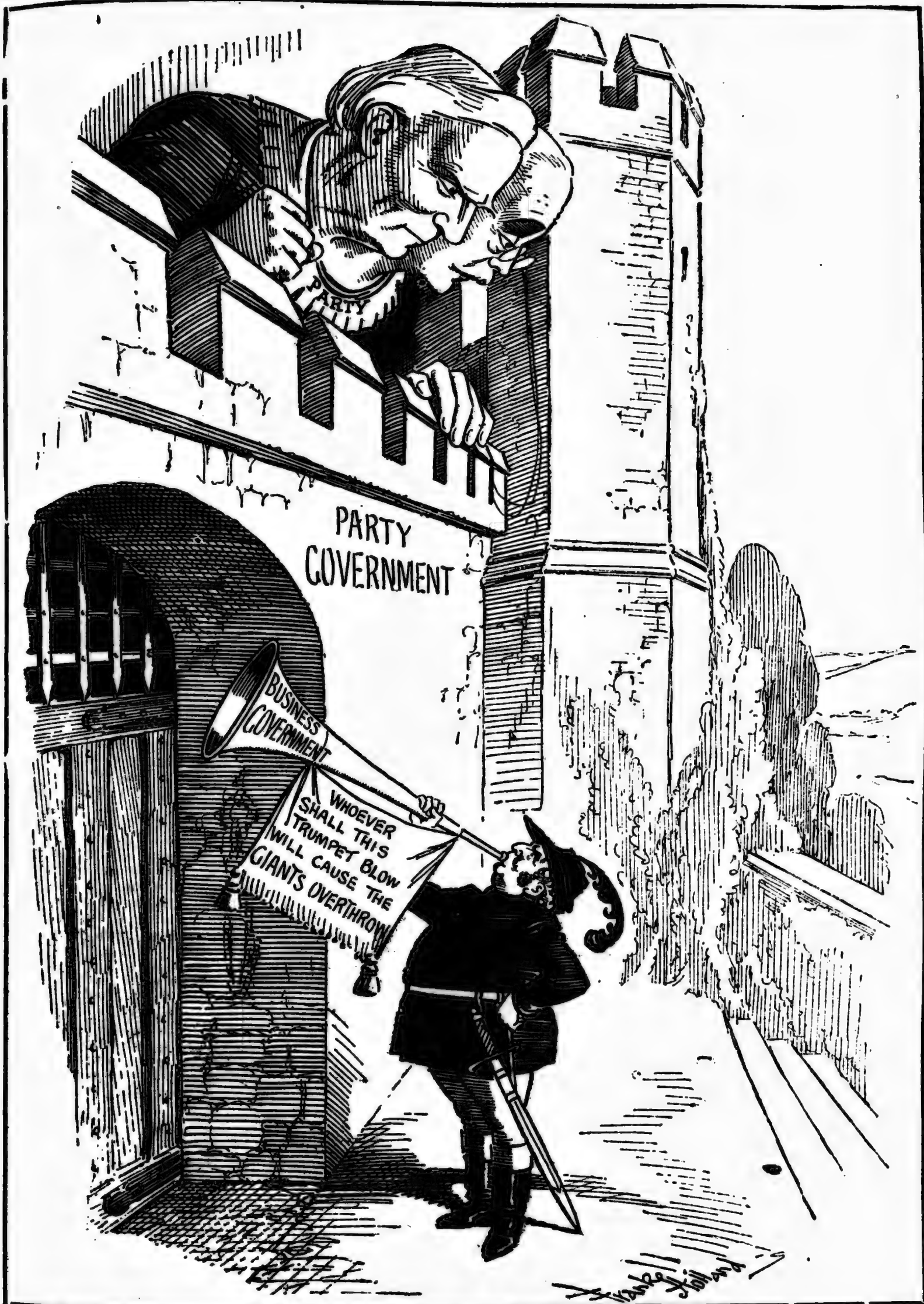
BULL.

Dartmoor Shepherd, Ellesmere.

Tory party downhearted at news your acquittal on first charge. Both parties look forward to trial on the second.

BULL.

JOHN THE GIANT KILLER.



ASQUITH: "That's a 'blow' for us, Arthur!"

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

BY VERAX.

Extreme pressure on my space, partly on account of a very extensive Letter Box, compels me to restrict general remarks. Suffice it to say that there is every indication that the stock markets will go ahead again after the Settlement. There is evidently a "Bear" account in *South African Mines*, and I hold as favourable an opinion as ever of the dividend-paying *Kaffirs* or the sound *Rhodesians* mentioned last week. The Syndicate of Liars has, by the way, been at work again hinting at a coming new issue by the *Rhodesia X Co.*, which has since been officially contradicted. *Yankees* still suffer from the delayed Supreme Court decisions, but the outlook in *Mexico* is improving. *Home Rails* will probably continue to suffer from profit-taking, and *Rubbers* are awaiting developments concerning the *Brazilian Syndicate's* action, but *Oil shares* are recovering, and should become very prominent during the next few months. *Nitrates* are improving. *Money* is becoming easier, and the market has repaid its commitments to the Bank of England, so that the monetary outlook is quite serene. *London General Omnibus* stock is lower, which is not surprising; neither is the fall in *A.B.C.* shares.

A SETBACK IN HOME RAILS—PREFERRED ORDINARY FOR THE INVESTOR.

As I had anticipated for some time, a reaction has come about in *Home Rails*. Very sensibly, some of the big operators have taken their profits, and others have followed suit, more especially when they saw the heavy contangoes at the last Settlement; yet prices are still considerably above those at the commencement of January, when, for instance, *Brighton "A"* were 98½, while they have since touched 112½, and are still good at 109½, while *Dover "A"* are quoted 56½, against 42 in January, *North Western* 147½, against 138, *Great Western* 133½, against 125½, etc. It is quite possible that prices will go down further, as the jobbers apparently would like to see them lower, but sooner or later the market will, no doubt, rally again. It is not, however, attractive for investment just now, and I would call attention to the far better returns which are to be obtained at present, from the pure investment point of view, in *Preferred Ordinary* stocks. As will be gathered from the following table, these have not improved at all in proportion to the *Ordinary* stocks. Some, indeed, are practically unaltered, and there are still yields of from £4 10s. to £4 15s. per cent. to be obtained:—

	Dividend per cent. per ann.	Highest, 1909-10.	Price, Jan. 2, 1911.	Price, April 24, 1911.	Yield p.c. per ann. £ s. d.
Barry	4	94½	87	86	4 13 0
Calsonian	3	67	63	64	4 13 6
Central London ..	4	88	87	89	4 9 11
Clas. and South Western	2½	60½	60	58	4 6 3
Great Northern ..	4	97½	95	95	4 4 3
Isle of Wight ..	4	89	83	81	4 18 9
London and South Western	4½	58½	95	95	4 9 6
London B. and S. Coast	6½	135	133	136	4 11 11
Midland	2½	64½	63½	63½	3 18 9
North British ..	3	70½	66½	67	4 9 7
Rhymney	4	107	98	95	4 4 3
South Eastern ..	6	122	121	126	4 15 3

Here, then, is an excellent chance for the investor who wants to sleep quietly over his securities, and there is that advantage with these stocks, that while there is not any prospect of a decline from these quotations, they might, on the contrary, improve in case the market generally took again an upward turn, which is not improbable when we are nearing Coronation time, with its large influx of visitors.

THE RUBBER POSITION—THE BRAZILIAN SYNDICATE, AND THE DIVIDEND QUESTION.

It pleases the market to throw cold water on all the news which comes to hand with regard to the Brazilian Syndicate, and even the cable which has been received stating positively that the States of Para and Amazonas will consider the rubber agreement on the 29th inst., has not removed the impression which a large number of the operators wish to create that all this is moonshine. It is not for me to prophesy what will happen if, contrary to the opinion of the market, these two Brazilian States take an active part in the valorisation of Para rubber, but something of the kind will have to occur if rubber is to rise again, the price of *Fine Para* just now being only 5s. On the other hand, the dividends are excellent, so far as they have been announced, and I give herewith a table of the chief dividends so far declared, to which, however, a good many important declarations have yet to be added:—

	Share.	Price.	Dividend p.c. 1909.	Dividend p.c. 1910.
Anglo-Malay	25.	20s.	80	100
Beverlac (Selangor) ..	25.	—	—	—
Damansara	£1	6½ xd.	50	55
Edinburgh Selangor ..	25.	—	15	75
Glenshiel	£1	5½ xd.	—	45
Gula Kalompong	£1	1½	—	15
Highland and Lowland ..	£1	4½	35	61
Kapar Para	£1	8½	10	50
Klarang	25.	1 xd.	45	65
Kuala Selangor	25.	1 1-16	—	87½
Langkat Sumatra	£1	3½ xd.	6	30
London Asiatic	25.	11s. 6d.	12½	15
Seaford	£1	6	15	25
Selangor	25.	2 15-16	28½	40
St. George	£1	—	10	37½
Shelford	£1	3½	7½	22½
Sungei Way	£1	6	—	30
Sungei Kapar	25.	12s. 6d.	34½	55

It will be seen that the comparison with 1909 is very favourable in nearly all cases. The *Linggi* is expected to pay at least 100 per cent., which would make a total of 250 per cent. for the past year, and the *Vallambrosa* is also expected to make a favourable announcement, while the boards of the leading companies, moreover, take a favourable view, as is shown, for instance, by the *Kuala Selangor*, which, besides entering the dividend list as above, pays also a dividend of 20 per cent. already on account of the current year. In the meantime, however, the pessimists have the best of it, and *Linggis* are down at 47s., *Vallambrosa* at 32s. 9d., and *Anglo Malays*, which have been banged, at 20s. 3d. There have been active market dealings in *Tirucalli* shares (*Natal*), which should considerably improve during next account, as it appears the quality of the rubber and the value of the resin are considerably better than that originally reported by Dr. Schidrowitz. The expedition headed by Mr. Noyes arrived on the concessions in *Natal* on Tuesday last, and shipments are expected soon. There is no doubt, as a result of further investigation into this huge concession, that the cost of producing rubber will be even less than 10½d. per lb., which was the price originally mentioned by Dr. Schidrowitz. Innumerable trees are reported ready for tapping of a diameter of from 10 to 48 ins. It is stated that arrangements are being made for the flotation of the first subsidiary, which will take over one-sixth of the property and will at once set to work tapping.

THE KIBWEZI RUBBER SCANDAL.

Numerous readers are communicating with me with regard to the Kibwezi Rubber Lands, Limited, which was started in April, 1910, with a prospectus which has been proved to overstate, more especially the rubber property, in a very glaring manner. The prospectus stated that there were 114,000 trees planted, of which 50,000 were ready to be tapped, while several experts estimated a production of 25,500 lbs. during 1910. As a matter of fact, there was no production in 1910, and it is asserted that a drought has injured the company's estate. Also, there is stated to have been neglect of rubber cultivation on the part of the original German vendors. It is, however, extraordinary that there should now only be 17,000 trees on the property, most of which are in poor condition. Messrs. Alexander, Latimer and Company, Limited, the immediate vendors to the company, who purchased the properties from the German vendors, now offer to provide a sum sufficient to pay 6 per cent. on the £70,000 worth of shares issued to the public for three years, on condition that this is to be repaid to them from the net income. This is not particularly generous, and most of my correspondents maintain that Messrs. Latimer ought to be made to lose the amount of £12,600, which they could claim from the German vendors to them. At all events, it will evidently be very difficult to make the shareholders accept the proposal, notwithstanding a lengthy circular issued by Mr. John Furley, the chairman of the board of directors. It is a great pity that the directors did not in the first instance send out an independent expert, and the mere lending of £12,600 is altogether inadequate, in view of the mis-statements in the prospectus. I strongly advise my readers not to accept this proposal.

OIL SHARES EXCITED—SENSATIONAL DEALINGS IN BLACK SEA OILFIELDS—CONGRATULATIONS TO MY READERS.

Oil shares are up—*Home Rails* are down, so that those who have acted on my advice to withdraw some of the money from *Home Rails*, and put it into *Oil shares*, have done well. I congratulate more especially those of my readers who have, on my advice, bought *Black Sea Oilfields Ordinary* and *Prefs.* shares, and they are, from the letters which I am receiving, thousands. I have recommended the *Ordinary* shares from 18s. upwards, and last week they rose to 17½. That, of course, was a fine profit, and I am glad that so many of my readers have taken it. The shares have dropped since to 1½ for the *Ordinary*, and 1 7-16 for

the *Prefs.*, from which there has been a rally. Should they go lower, by all means go in again, but at the present prices you can do better elsewhere. I have drawn up the following table of desirable stocks, quoting the highest price touched last week, and also the present price:—

	Price, Jan. 2, 1911.	Highest, April 18, 1911.	Price, April 24, 1911.
Anglo-Maikop Ord. ..	5-16 pm.	2 1/2	2 1-16
Black Sea Ord.	18/-	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 12-16	1 9-16
California Ord.	4 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Egyptian Trust "A" ..	4 1/2	4	4
Gen. Oil & Finance (10/- pd.) ..	dis.	par.	par.
G. M. Oilfields ..	1 1/2	2	2
London and Maikop (10/- paid) ..	3-16 dis.	1 1/2 pm.	1-16 pm.
Maikop and Gen. Trust ..	1	1 1/2	1
Maikop Pipe-Line Ord. ..	13-16	30/6	27/6
Maikop Pipe-Line Def. ..	—	—	17/6
Maikop Premier ..	11-16	1	15-16
Maikop Spies (10/- shares) ..	12/6	17/-	16/6
Maikop Valley Pt. (15/- pd.) ..	7-16 dis.	par.	1-16 dis.
Maikop Victory (5/- pd.) ..	—	1 1/2 pm.	3-16 pm.
Mexican Eagle ..	20/-	33/6	33/3
Oil Trust of Galicia (10/- pd.) ..	—	1 1/2 pm.	1 1/2 pm.
Prem. Oil and Pipe-Line ..	12/6	25/-	24/3
Red Sea Oilfields ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Shell Transport ..	78/3	92/-	90/9
Spies Petroleum (10/- shares) ..	29/9	59/-	58/9
Trinidad Oilfields (17/6 pd.)	9-16	15-16	1 1/2
Do. Western (2/- shares) ..	1 1/2	2/-	1/9

Amongst these, I had more particularly recommended *Anglo-Maikop*, *Maikop Spies*, and *London and Maikop*, all of which have improved, but, having made some special enquiries, I recommend more especially several *Maikop* companies and *Cheleken* for present investment, and I herewith give the following particulars of these:—

MAIKOP VICTORY OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.—Capital £307,500, of which 300,000 are Ordinary of £1 each, and 150,000 Deferred of 1s. each. After the Ordinary shares have received a dividend of 10 per cent., the surplus net profits go half to the Ordinary and half to the Deferred. The property acquired is five plots of 27 acres each, in one of which, the Kumianski Plot, a fountain was struck on January 30th, spouting 200,000 poods per day. This, in fact, is a famous gusher, and other wells are being bored for. The shares of £1, 5s. paid, stand at 3-16 premium.

MAIKOP VALLEY OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.—Capital £400,000 in 200,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, and 200,000 Seven per Cent. Participating Preference shares of £1 each, 15s. paid. The Preference shares receive first seven per cent., and afterwards divide with the Ordinary. The property consists of 28 plots of 27 acres each, of which 16 are situated in the best part of the Maikop district, and several plots are in close proximity to the gusher, while oil is expected to be struck at shallow depth in several wells. The Preference shares are quoted at 1-16 discount.

CHELEKEN OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—Capital £300,000 in Ordinary shares of £1 each. The property acquired is five plots of 32 acres each, on the island of Cheleken, in the Caspian Sea, which is famous for its richness in naphtha and ozokerite. Owing to the phenomenal results obtained by the Kadjinsky on these plots, adjoining Ale-Tepe on the west (belonging to the Cheleken Oilfields), there are excellent prospects of a very large production. A pipe line is being constructed to the harbour, and four wells are being sunk on the property at Ale Tepe. The shares seem very moderately priced at 1 13-16.

I should like to caution my readers with regard to the various rumours about the Maikop Pipe Line which have been set about, and which evidently originate with the "Bears." As Mr. George Tweedy cables from Ekaterinodar, 270,000 poods had been delivered by the Maikop Victory to the pipe line, and 200,000 poods were already at Ekaterinodar, while the Black Sea Oilfields had delivered 330,000 poods to the pipe line and was still delivering. With reference to the pipe line, Mr. Tweedy states that it is working satisfactorily, and large quantities are passing through. This company is, therefore, now earning large profits. It has also the right of laying a pipe line from the Maikop field to the Port of Touapse on the Black Sea. As the Ordinary shares of £1 each have risen to 27s., I am more particularly in favour of the Deferred shares, which take half the profits after the Ordinary shares have received a dividend of 10 per cent. As there are 500,000 Ordinary and only 200,000 Deferred shares, this will work very much in favour of the Deferred, which ought to be bought at once at their present price of 17s. 6d. Another Maikop company which is now coming to the front is the *London and Maikop Oil Corporation*. It holds 27 plots out of the 32 plots acquired, the remaining five having been sold to the Australian Maikop Company. There is already one gusher, on plot 411, which will shortly deliver oil to the pipe line, while out of the others Nos. 509 and 529 are at the moment the most attractive, as the Maikop Spies Company is boring in the immediate vicinity and has now reached a depth of 1,000 ft. There are, of course, also great possibilities with the other plots, especially No. 75, which is close to plot 69, where Maikop Areas is down 400 ft. and has passed through the first gas strata. Of the £1 shares 10s. has been called up, and these are to be obtained at 1/2 premium, at which they are very cheap. There is no doubt that there will be a fresh boom in Maikop shares in the near future, and I shall expect even *Black Sea Oilfields* shares to rally, but for the present the various companies mentioned above are cheaper.

Amongst the likely soarers in the Oil market, *G.M. Oilfields* can be singled out. Its capital is only £28,000, but its interests are important and widely distributed, embracing Central Europe, Russia, Roumania, Canada, Algeria and

New Zealand. It is a parent company, and has successfully dealt with several properties, and its prospective profits are very great. Last year the shares stood at about £5. To-day they are in the neighbourhood of 1 1/2, and a big movement may be seen. It is just the class of shares to attract those who go for a big profit.

New Zealand Oilfields have advanced since I directed attention to them. They are still one of the cheapest shares in the market, and should be bought at the present figure of 1s. 6d. Mr. J. D. Henry, the English oil expert, who has just left New Zealand, says the value of New Zealand's oil production will within a short period be equal to that of gold, and that the oil area is very much more extensive than the Government geologist thought.

NEW ISSUE.

THE ONTARIO PORCUPINE GOLDFIELDS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LTD.

The very fact that now only the first gold mining company of the Porcupine goldfields is introduced in this country, although the field has been known since 1909, points to very careful investigation having preceded this promotion. The board is an exceptionally influential one, and the 50 selected mining claims (about 2,000 acres) acquired may be relied upon to prove very valuable properties, selected after active prospecting. Good pay values are reported in one instance, and at a depth of 200 ft. veins from 6 to 8 ft. wide, going about 2 1/2 oz. to the ton in another. No doubt there are greater surprises in store for the shareholders, and the fact that Messrs. Berwick, Moreing and Co. are general managers in Canada is in itself a guarantee of substantial profits. The capital is £600,000 in £1 shares, and it should be noted that the Northern Ontario Exploration Company, Ltd., has bought a half interest in the claims. There is no doubt but that this new Porcupine Company will make great stir in the market during the current year, and I shall not be surprised to see the shares quoted very soon at a substantial premium.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, John Bull, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—FOOLISH.—You have no business to speculate knowing nothing about it. The firm in question are quite right, and you have lost your £6. Do not do it again, as surely you must understand these people are not philanthropists, and if they can turn the account against you, they will, no doubt, do so. **LIBRA.**—My opinion of the circular of T. Moreton Harris and Co., stock and share brokers, of Borough Buildings, John Bright Street, Birmingham, is that it would be better to leave their new method of monthly profit-sharing deals severely alone, if you do not want to lose your money. **GOODWILL.**—In your position, I do not think it would be advisable to speculate with these outside brokers, and if you intend to make investment you should employ a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange. **BARKHILL.**—I never recommend outside brokers, but it is not improbable that you will find members of the Stock Exchange undertaking small business such as you require. **R. E. M.**—(1) My information about this firm is unfavourable. There are many complaints. (2) No, and there is not the slightest chance of obtaining it. (3) You will find a paragraph on Duncan Forbes and Company in last week's issue. **J. H. F.**—I have received no complaints that the Exchange does not meet all its claims. **LEATHERHOSE.**—You must, of course, understand that it is not by any means certain that you will win through this outside broker. It is merely a speculation. **CORONA.**—In your position you should not speculate with your hard-earned savings through outside brokers. You would simply lose the money. Leave it in the Savings Bank until it grows to a larger amount, and then invest in sound securities. **A. W. (Gainsborough).**—They are outside brokers, located far from the Stock Exchange. You should not deal with them. **RIP.**—I cannot advise dealing with such people. You ought to have sold your Black Sea Prefs when they rose to 38s.

PUBLISHING AND RUBBER SHARES.—BULLRIBB.—(1) It is difficult to sell these shares, as there is no quotation yet in the market. (2) You would have to take a very much lower price. (3) Yes, to buy these rubber shares you would have to send the money first.

SCINTI RUMS.—GOLD.—(1) Impossible to tell. (2) Ditto. I should think you had better wait, as a rise in the Rhodesian market would help these shares too.

MIDLAND DEFERRED AND RUBBER.—C. W.—As Home Rails are just now reacting, you should wait your time to buy Midland Deferred a little cheaper. Island Para Rubber you might, of course, buy somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1s. 3d. With a London stockbroker you would naturally deal through the post.

INVESTMENT FOR WORKING MAN.—INTERESTED G.—You cannot do better than invest the money in question either in Colonial Government stocks, yielding 3 1/2 per cent., or in Home Rails, to yield 4 1/2 per cent., now that the latter are somewhat easier, and it is possible to buy on good terms again.

BUILDING SOCIETY.—ELMO.—As far as I am aware, the society is sound enough at present, but the position of all such concerns has been greatly weakened of late years by new legislation, and I should not care to keep my money in them.

VARIOUS.—THISTLE.—(1) A fair Industrial holding. (2) You can do better in the rubber shares recommended in my article. (3) Ditto as regards Oils. (4) Balco are a first-class holding amongst tin shares.

WEST KAND CONSOLIDATED.—W. P. H. (Brixton).—I am sorry to inform you that, according to the directors' report down to December 31st, 1910, the West Rand Consolidated Mines will not be able to pay a dividend for the past year, but the balance, being unappropriated profit, of £47,599, is being carried forward. The history of the mine during the year was disappointing.

SMALL INVESTMENTS.—MAYBERRY.—Both Canadian and Japanese bonds are good investments of their kind—the former amongst the gilt-edged category, the latter in the second-class division.

TO INCREASE THE YIELD.—DALETH.—The only way this can be done is by taking a little more risk. Some of the Home Railway Preferred Ordinary stocks are worth attention, especially on any temporary reactions. South Eastern Preferred, for instance, can still be bought to yield about 4½ per cent. per annum, and other descriptions from 4 to 4½ per cent. per annum. The senior Great Central Preference stocks, yielding up to 4½ per cent. per annum, are also still worthy of attention. See my article.

GREAT CENTRALS.—W. G. C.—Yes, Great Centrals are a promising spec., especially after the sharp reaction.

B. E. TRACIONS.—DELTA.—Everything depends upon the showing of the forthcoming report, regarding which market opinion varies greatly. You can do no harm by waiting.

SMALL SPECULATION.—H. S. (Hereford).—(1) I do not think you can do better than buy some London and Mailkop Corporation £1 shares, 10s. paid, at 1-16 premium. There should be an important advance in about ten days' time, when the pipe line is carrying the company's oil. (2) Respectable enough, but I do not know anything about their means. You should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange.

TRANSVAAL EXPLORING.—J. W. (Morpeth).—The price is 1s. 3d. to 1s. 9d. One of these days, no doubt, they will improve again.

PENNY BANKS.—W. D.—I share your view with regard to these Penny Banks, and I think you cannot do better than place the money in the Post Office, or else invest it in sound securities.

BUENA VISTA FRUIT COMPANY, IN CUBA.—BOSTON.—I do not advise investing in this concern, and have given reasons already in former issues of JOHN BULL.

CORONATION SEATS.—R. P. M.—You cannot really expect me to advise you as to what price to ask for seats. Your own good sense should tell you.

CHIEF RUBBER SHARES.—GRAVELOCK.—You might buy for the amount of £40, Island (Para) rubber shares, at about 2s. 3d. This company is producing, and the shares will eventually improve. I note that 1s. of the 2s. sent is to be used for sending JOHN BULL to your address.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—JE SAIS RIEN.—I see nothing unreasonable in the terms made to you, which are apparently those which this society generally imposes.

FOREIGN LAND INVESTMENT.—SHARO (Leeds).—There are considerable possibilities, but it is, of course, speculative, and you must make up your mind yourself. At all events, if you invest the money, you won't see it back again for some considerable time.

MINKS.—C. E. H. (Streatham).—Rhodesians are fully ripe for a boom, and the pick of the bunch is Hay Gold Mine. Willoughbys are a fair holding amongst Rhodesians, but I am not so sure about Roberts Victor, on the basis of information at present available.

£50 FOR INVESTMENT.—FEATHERS.—The amount is too small to be employed in this way. Better invest it, say in Local Loans stock through the Post Office. This will, at any rate, give you a better yield than you are now getting.

TWO INDUSTRIALS.—J. A. M.—Such shares as Westminster Electric (1) and Peace and Partners (2) are good of their kind, but they certainly do not come within the class of "safe investments." The latter comprise only securities with a fixed yield, such as Home and Colonial Government stocks, Home Railway Prior Charges, Mortgage Debentures, and so on.

BRITISH MOTOR TRACTION CO.—F. W.—I regret I can find no trace whatever of this concern. Can any other of my readers, by chance, tell me what has become of it?

MURCHISON ASSOCIATED.—P. J.—For the moment, these shares are inactive, but are likely before long to be in favour and stand at a higher price.

LOW-PRICED RUBBER SHARES.—FIXTURE.—Your request concerning Premium Bonds has been attended to. With regard to the proposed investment in rubber shares, I should strongly advise you to divide it amongst rubber and oil shares, as the oil market is coming strongly to the front. You might put some into Island Para at about 2s. 6d., but I should advise you to put the larger part in the Mailkop shares especially mentioned in to-day's article, and also in Cheleken at 1½.

DIVIDEND-PAYING RUBBER SHARES.—C. B. (Westbourne Grove).—(1) Linggis are the best shares to buy, at about 48s. 6d. (2) Amongst oil shares, London and Mailkop Corporation, at 1-16 premium, and Cheleken, at 1½, are most suitable, as they are apparently going to a higher price.

RUBBER PROSPECTUS.—IGNORANT.—I strongly advise you to have nothing to do with this firm. It is going very badly. If you want to buy rubber shares, you should select Island (Para), which are already producing, and the 2s. shares in which you can buy at 2s. 3d.

BLACK SEA OILFIELDS ORDINARY.—BLACKIE.—The stockbroker will buy these for you, but you may have lost your market. See my article on Mailkop shares.

INVESTMENT IN RUBBER AND OIL SHARES.—J. F. N.—The best low-priced rubber shares to buy just now would be Island (Para), at 2s. 3d., and, amongst oil shares, London and Mailkop, and Cheleken, at 1½.

NEW ZEALAND OILFIELDS.—R. N.—Buy at the present price to average the cost of your previous purchases.

HOME RAILS ON MARGIN.—A. B. C. (Hull).—(1) Respectable, but I do not know their means. (2) Sometimes they do.

PATENT FOR TAPS AND COCKS.—J. A. J.—I do not know for the moment anyone to take up your patent for improvement in taps and cocks, but perhaps some of the readers of JOHN BULL may be able to advise you.

BAKITES MINES.—OLD MINER.—You want to find some financial people who would assist you in working some old Barytes mines in Westmoreland. Perhaps one of the readers of JOHN BULL would care to go into this with "Old Miner."

ANGLO-AMERICAN INVESTMENT TRUST.—S. P. E. C.—These are merely outside brokers who want you to speculate, in which case you stand every chance of losing your money. Have nothing to do with them. The documents are returned. DOUBTFUL (Glasgow).—Certainly not. Such speculation can never be safe, and you are as likely to lose your money as to make a profit.

SPECULATION OR INVESTMENT.—J. C. M.—In your position as a working man, who has, however, saved a nice sum in the Post Office Savings Bank, I think you ought not to speculate, as mentioned under No. 3, as you might easily lose your money. You should invest some of it (1 or 2), and you could easily through your stockbroker (4) put money in, say, Home Railway stocks, on the moderate reaction now in progress, while venturing a little in oil shares, though not in Black Sea Oilfields, which are rather dear now, but in others mentioned in my article.

LAND PURCHASE.—J. M. REGULAR READER.—Having the chance as one of the tenants of a very large estate of purchasing some of the outlying portions on very favourable terms, this would, no doubt, be advisable, but I do not see how I can help you. It shows how necessary it is to have land banks.

OIL SHARES.—NURSE.—No, there would be no further payment, but, as it happens, these shares have gone up from 1s. 1½d to 1s. 6d. Still, your broker will find you some suitable oil investment. Mrs. C. B. F. F. B. C., C. K.—I refer you to my article on oil shares, with regard to latest developments in connection with Black Seas and Mailkop shares generally. On any further decline the shares would be a good lock-up again. EVE (Sulfolk).—Presumably you have a profit on Mexican Eagle. Take it, and re-invest in shares which have not yet had a rise. See my article. PERTH.—(1) In the circumstances it should be worth while holding. (2) Ditto. CAZOSOTIC.—(1) A respectable con-

cern, with promising prospects, but there is no market in the shares at present. (2) Mailkop Victory or London and Mailkop Corporation would be preferable. BIRRO.—In the first place, both shares are highly speculative. Secondly, I cannot tell you anything about the firm, and the fact that they are outsiders is not in their favour. Better consult a solicitor. W. S.—Put the money into Mailkop Victory at 3-16ths premium, London and Mailkop, and General Oil and Finance, at par. G. D. J., J. R.—No; do not buy any more of these shares. Rather put the money into those specially recommended to "W. S." JOHN BULL FOLLOWER.—(1) It is not at all surprising that one broker should have obtained 1½ for Black Sea Oilfields shares, and another 1 25-32. Prices were jumping about very wildly, and you have done exceedingly well, but your friend telephoned. It was simply a question of speed in the first instance. You may be quite sure that your friend who has done so well will have to pay for it in another way. (2) I can only advise you to go in for the oil shares mentioned in my article specially. Mailkop Victory £1 shares, 5s. paid, at 3-16 premium, for special settlement, or Mailkop Valley Prefs., £1 shares, 15s. paid, at about par, also Cheleken at 1½ for special settlement, expected in about a month. (3) Black Sea Oilfields may have a further relapse before it is advisable to buy again. X. Y. Z. (Seaton).—(1) You ought to have cleared your big profit; do so on the next improvement. (2) Not very progressive, you can do better in the stocks mentioned in my letter. (3) Consult my articles, and also, answers to other correspondents. (4) It all depends; no hard-and-fast rule can be fixed.

(A large number of replies are unavoidably held over.)

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 93, Long Acre, W.C.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO.—ANXIOUS ONE (Beckenham).—The first policy practically amounts to nothing and the second, which requires you to pay 6d. per week for 15 years, is a very deceiving one. You will get nothing like as much as you have paid in during that period. Bonuses are not guaranteed. They may or may not be paid. J. K. E. (St. John's Wood).—The policy you sent us is genuine enough, but it is highly misleading. In Section 4 it states that at the end of 11 years and 8 lunar months "payments of premiums can be discontinued." You probably assume that at the end of that period you will be entitled to £40, the amount of the policy. In fact, you will only be entitled to a free policy for a sum very much less than you have paid in. We return your policy. MAX (Woolwich).—It is impossible for us to answer your question unless you send us fuller particulars. What were the dates at entry and conditions of the policy? ONE IN DOUBT (Notting Hill).—In the circumstances you describe we should consider the offer of £180 inadequate. It perhaps would be well to consult a solicitor. J. B. (Leeds).—It is difficult to answer your question, since you do not give us the full facts, but if you are not responsible for funeral expenses there is no insurable interest. W. G. C. (Beebles).—We do not quite understand your letter. Do you mean to say that your policy has been improperly taken from you by your wife, who handed it to a brother-in-law, who has since obtained surrender value upon it? It would be necessary to sign a surrender application and receipt for surrender value paid. Who signed these receipts if such money was paid? The matter is a serious one, and we advise you to consult a solicitor. C. T. (Oxford).—There appears to have been a legal assignment, in which case the policies are, of course, valid. A CONSTANT READER (Hansworth).—What seems to have happened is this. The agent paid the 2d. per week out of his own pocket. 2s. 10d. is the charge made for the particular policy you name, and therefore in now making that charge, the office is justified. A. M. D. (Hampstead).—We are obliged to you. PRUDENTIAL NO. 2.—The policy would seem to be in order.

LIVERPOOL AND VICTORIA LEGAL AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO.—F. B.—The policies are all right, but only the amounts paid in would be payable if death occurred in the meantime.

CAR AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO.—F. C. (Brighton).—So far as we know there is nothing issued but the card of membership, which says nothing about the amount of compensation, but only that the member will receive full compensation for a month, and in certain cases half for a longer period. The scheme has, as you say, some resemblance to that of the late One and All Insurance Co.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—S. S. (Crewel).—Yes, it is quite genuine. The Association has been established some 30 years, and is financially very strong.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—S. P. (Goole).—We are disposed to think so.

PURCHASE OF ANNUITY.—W. H. (New Brighton).—You do not send us the particulars necessary to enable us to answer your question. CHISSOLD (Stoke Newington).—The company to which you refer is quite sound, and you may purchase an annuity from it without hesitation.

BRITANNIC INSURANCE CO.—T. J. S. (Chesterfield).—We really do not see what your friend has to complain of. Her policy lapsed in Nov., 1910, and it was not until April, 1911, any application was made to the company about it. The surrender value at the end of the lapse appears to have been £3 16s. 8d., and the company had already granted a loan of £5 on the security of the policy, so that there was nothing further due by the company thereunder.

ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY.—JUSTICE (Hull).—The answers to your questions are as follows:—(1) Your wife has no insurable interest in the life of her mother-in-law. (2) There is nothing to prevent your demanding the return of all premiums. (3) As to whether, in the event of refusal, you could compel the company by process at law to refund, you had better consult a solicitor.

VALIDITY OF POLICY.—A. McDONALD.—The policy, which we return, seems to be all right. We do not think the slight difference in the matter of the age matters much.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ASSURANCE CO.—G. N. (Salisbury).—We have no reason to suppose there is any undue delay. G. E. P. (South Shields).—You should transfer.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO.—W. G. (Aldershot).—There does not appear to be any insurable interest.

STATUS OF COMPANY.—SMUTS (Victoria, S.A.).—The company you name is in the front rank of insurance companies. R. C. (Prestatyn).—It is a long way behind the front rank.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—[INVALID (Basingstoke).—The policy is a peculiar one, issued specially for such cases as yours. It is valid. We return your papers.

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—G. B. (Peckham).—There is no insurable interest, but we question whether you will get back your premiums.

INSURABLE INTEREST.—HATTEY (Newtown).—If the facts are as you state them, there is no insurable interest, consequently the policy, which we return, is legally valueless. W. (Salisbury).—There is no insurable interest, therefore, legally, the policy is valueless, but it is quite possible that the company will pay it upon maturity. C. D.—What you have been told is not true. The husband would be the legal claimant. ELECTRICIAN (Silvertown).—The company would not pay if you have no policy. There is no insurable interest.

EARNST (Eastbourne).—None of the policies you name have any surrender value. One or two of them might be exchanged for a free policy, payable at death. J. E. B. (Clacton-on-Sea).—There is no insurable value on application to the company. It must be for you to decide whether it is worth accepting. We return your policies.

PENSIONS FOR LADY TEACHERS.—ANXIOUS.—The offer is an attractive one, and it is made by an office of high standing.

TWO INSURANCE COMPANIES.—J. B. S. (New York).—Of the two companies you name, we should prefer the Scottish Amicable.

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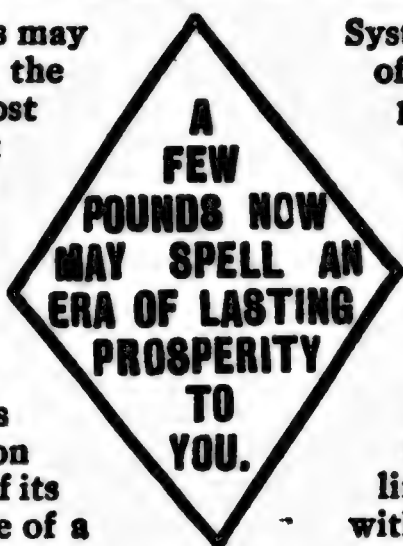
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Please forward me gratis and post free your booklet, "The Modern System of Money-Making," which is a clear explanation of the methods which have enabled you to pay to clients £485,480.

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LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

BEING COMMUNICATIONS FROM A YOUNG PERSON TO
HER FRIENDS AND RELATIONS.

By MOORE ANKING.

SKIBBORIDGE NEUK,
SITHA, N.B.

DEAR MOTHER,—Got here all right, you sec. Oh, but the people—and the langwidge! Straight, it's like living on one of them uninhabited islands what the mission people show on the lantern.

'Stead of saying blimey or perish me pink, like we might at home, the people here say Losh and Hoot toot and some of 'em, men, too, wear short petticoats with the colours all mixed up. I s'pose the pattern got struck by lightning.

One of the heathen tribe I've come among is called Jock Tammas. I happened to be looking over the wall one night when he passed, so he said something, might have been Good Night. I've been told I could have summonsed him. Well, there was a little garden-rake close by so I pulled it across the gravel. He went on with his chatter and every time he stopped I raked the gravel about. He Loshed and Hoot-tooted for three-quarters of an hour, thinking I was answering him in Scawtch. Mind you, mother, and this was one of the sharpest in the district. One of the nuts. So you see what a fine chance there'd be for evening classes. Pay better than ping-pong. What?

Oh, mother, that reminds me. Saw a person wearing a air'em skirt on one of the platforms. Can't see, myself, why they call them air'em skirts. Seems to me they don't air'em so much as the other sort, it don't stand to reason they should. What amused me was the shadow the lady made as she walked about. Oh, wow-wow! If they have them things in Tottenham, you might lend Bert something to read at nights—history of standard bread will do, anything solemn. Be better than letting his mind wander.

We had a middling time coming here. Our old housekeeper had charge of us girls, and the butler looked after the shofers, and the gardening johnnies, and the potato-cooks, and all the other crack-pots in trousers.

We'd some songs in the train, and the old housekeeper asked me if I'd attended many concerts. I answered very respectful for once, 'cause I thought she might be useful later in showing me round the houses. Told her you and me went regular every week for years.

She seemed quite pleased at that, and then she talked about the elevayting infloence of music. Last of all she asked why my ma and I discontinued concert-going.

I could only tell her that when they chucked the free coffee and biscuit struggle at the Band of Hope, wanting everybody to pay a ha'penny for their whack, you and I stopped away to show our independence. Told her it was a matter of principal—besides, I said, when we'd lost all hope there didn't seem any sense in sticking to the band.

Later on, after she'd worked her gums through a banana, she asked if I'd ever heard Tossedhigh's Goodbye.

Of course, I had to tell her No, I didn't see the accident. Then the old dear found somebody else to talk to.

You know, mother, we recelly ought to have gone about more and seen things when I was at home. Of course, people no business to get tossed, but then you feel silly if you don't know about it. Specially when you're in company and get asked.

If it won't be too much trouble, mother dear, you might enquire at the paper-shop about this tossing business. I shouldn't like to think it was that girl of Parkins's. She got to be better after they passed the Cleansing Act, didn't she? If it was Mother Parkins now, it'd be a different thing altogether.

Here'vo I been rattling on about myself and almost forgetting to ask if you got the charring for the Borough Council. You'd be all right there, mother, specially if you got regular work in the Baths. Why, you could pinch enough soap to start a laundry. You don't know what fate may have in store, and a bit of soap's always worth finding, ain't it? What I mean is, you don't know what's in the fewcher, you don't know what you've been saved for. I'm sure I don't.

Well, now, goodbye, ma, for the present.

x x x

Your ever-loving daughter, JANE ANN.

THE GREAT SHAKESPEARE BALL.

SUGGESTED RE-ARRANGEMENT OF CHARACTERS.

By RICHARD MORTON.

The Shakespeare Ball, which is being organised for the Shakespeare Memorial National Theatre Committee, promised from the outset to be one of the most interesting functions of the society season.

The preliminary list of aristocratic and otherwise celebrated people who had undertaken to represent characters from the plays of the Bard was striking enough to command general attention, but the most up-to-date list which we are privileged to publish will certainly be regarded as even more remarkable and extraordinary.

The original list appealed to us because of its omissions; it mainly consisted of aristocrats and actors; the names of many well-known—even notorious—personages were conspicuous, to use a classic term, by their absence.

In these circumstances it seemed nothing less than our duty to place our ideas before the Committee, and we have accordingly supplied the following redistribution of parts:

THE QUADRILLE PARTIES.

Each party will undertake the representation of the certain drama, and among those already apportioned are:—

The Tempest.—By Miss Marie Tempest, Lord Hugh Cecil, John Storm, and the Clerk of the Weather.

Much Ado About Nothing.—Mr. Taft, Sir Edward Grey, Earl Roberts, Lord Charles Beresford, and Lord Haldane.

Henry VIII.—Mr. Nat Goodwin and the Mormon Missionaries.

The Merchant of Venice.—Mr. Attenborough, and the Directors of the Prudential Assurance Company.

Love's Labour Lost.—Mr. David Davies.

As You Like It.—Sir Joseph Lyons, Mr. Eustace Miles, Harris the Sausage King, and Mr. Lockhart.

Winter's Tale.—Captain Scott, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and Dr. Nansen.

A Midsummer Night's Dream.—Mr. William Willctt.

Romeo and Juliet.—Miss Pauline Chase, Mr. Grahame White, Miss Lily Elsie, Mr. Robert Loraine, Miss Katharine Elkins and the Duke of the Abruzzi (Mr. Hitt intervening).

Measure for Measure.—Mr. Asquith and Lord Lansdowne.

Macbeth.—Mr. Kcir Hardie.

Othello.—Mr. Jack Johnson, Mr. Sam Langford, Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, Mr. Booker Washington, and Mr. Eugene Stratton.

CHARACTERS SEPARATELY REPRESENTED.

We give the following list as being more likely—and certainly more interesting—than the one officially issued:—

Shylock Mr. Lloyd George.

Puck Mr. Marconi (who will put a

girdle round the earth in forty seconds).

The Ghost in *Hamlet* .. Sir Thomas Lipton.

(This selection is appropriate if we regard Sir Thomas as the present head of the Bacon family.)

Portia Miss Christabel Pankhurst.

Petruchio Mr. Winston Churchill.

Catherine Mrs. Pankhurst.

Duke of Norfolk Mr. Will Crooks.

Duchess of Norfolk Mrs. Philip Snowden.

Cardinal Wolsey Mr. W. T. Stead.

Hamlet Lord Rosebery.

Malvolio Mr. G. Bernard Shaw.

Juliet Mr. Pelissier.

Touchstone Mr. Plowden.

Autolycus Mr. Justice Darling.

Titania Mrs. Horne.

Joan of Arc Lady Constance Lytton.

Julius Caesar Sir Rufus Isaacs.

Marc Antony Mr. F. E. Smith.

Caliban Mr. John Redmond.

Master Slender Mr. Balfour.

Florizel Mr. Birrell.

Ariel M. Bleriot.

Brutus Mr. "Tim" Healy.

Cassius Mr. William O'Brien.

A CHARMING WHITSUN CRUISE.

THE Orient Steamship Company has arranged for what should be a very charming Whitsun holiday. One of their fine new steamers, the "Otranto," of over 12,000 tons burden, will start from London on May 27th for a 20 days' cruise, which will include visits to Vigo, Tangiers, Gibraltar, Las Palmas, Funchal, Lisbon, and other places. The accommodation on board the "Otranto" is all that could be desired in the way of luxury and convenience; and the cuisine is always of the best. The cruise is essentially a pleasure one, no cargo being taken. Last, but not least, the fare for the cruise is very moderate.

THE Ontario Porcupine Goldfields Development Co., Ltd.

In view of the prominence which the Porcupine Goldfield in the Province of Ontario, Canada, is bound to assume in the near future, it will be useful to explain the position of the new companies, as they are brought before British investors, and a very important company of this kind has this week been formed. It need hardly be said that it has been well received. The Porcupine Goldfield first came into prominence in 1909, when rich discoveries caused a rush to the field. The Ontario Porcupine Goldfields Development Company, Limited, acquires 50 mining claims, about 2,000 acres, situated in the field, which appear to have been very carefully selected.

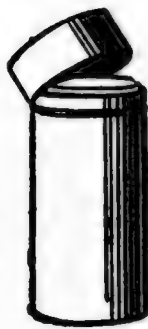
The names and numbers of the claims are as follows:—

Name.	Claim Numbers.
Whitely	12,975.
R. A. Ferguson	13,164 to 13,166.
Day-Shannon	13,322 and 13,323.
Andres Aufhammer ..	(804 to 809, 813 to 817, 1,347, 1,348 and 979.
Aitchison	13,080 to 13,082, 13,114 to 13,116.
Amalgamated Porcupine	252 P. to 255 P., 13,420, 13,805, 13,053, 13,052 and 13,349.
Rochester	13,428 and 13,429.
Munro	13,421 and 13,422.
Dorsey	13,953 to 13,955, 13,806, 4 P., and 15,562.
Miller	13,042 to 13,044.
Richardson	13,359 and 13,360.

The field is situate about 450 miles north of Toronto, 100 miles north of Cobalt, and 30 miles west of Kelso, a station on the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, and it should be noted that not only is in winter transport of very heavy machinery very easily done by sleigh, but the railway is now being extended into the field, and is expected to be ready for traffic in July. Rich ore bodies have been located, such as on the Dome claims, to 400 feet in depth, which showed good values, while, at 200 feet depth, veins of from 6 to 8 feet wide showed 2½ ozs. per ton.

The 50 claims already mentioned, as acquired by the Company, are selected and acquired by Messrs. Timmins and their associates. The Northern Ontario Exploration Co., Ltd., having bought a half interest in such claims, sent in the drill compresses, boilers, and other plant and stores, while camps have been formed by them on the Miller and Aitchison claims, some of those acquired. The holders of the claims, with two exceptions, are entitled within three years and six months from the date of the reporting of the claims to obtain patents from the Crown in respect thereof, at the price of 3 dollars per acre, and such patents confer upon the patentees all the Crown Title to such land, and all mines and minerals therein. Under the circumstances, the purchase price is naturally not a high one—viz., £480,000, payable as to £50,000 in cash, and the balance in cash or shares. The Board of Directors is highly influential and business-like, consisting as it does of Mr. Cyril Wanklyn, Mr. William Elliot Lawson-Johnson, the Hon. Frederick G. Curzon, Messrs. David A. Dunlap, Charles M. Hart, David Richards, and C. Algernon Moreing. It need hardly be mentioned that Mr. Moreing is a great power in himself, and the fact that his firm have become General Managers in Canada is very important. The capital is £600,000 in 600,000 shares of £1 each. The Advisory Board in Canada consists of Messrs. Noah Anthony Timmins, John McMartin, and Louis Henry Timmins. The Bankers are Messrs. Roberts, Lubbock and Co. and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Messrs. Herbert S. Stoneham and Co. and Messrs. Dimmock Bros. and Cowtan are the brokers, and the Secretary is Mr. F. C. Heley, F.C.I.S., the offices being at 20, Copthall Avenue, E.C.

Having thus given an outline of this important enterprise, we may add that the potentialities of these properties are very great, and it is evident that the Porcupine Goldfield, and especially the properties mentioned herewith, will loom large in the eyes of investors in the course of the present year. It is expected that many of these mines will prove very rich, and that these 50 claims will prove the pick of the whole field.



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are MRS. BULL, published Tuesdays,
and LOTINGA'S WEEKLY, pub-
lished Wednesdays.

OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS IN THE RHONDDA VALLEY AND SHEFFIELD.

DOWN A RHONDDA COAL MINE.

If I were compelled to choose between earning my livelihood as a collier for the term of my natural life, or blowing out my brains with a revolver, I would, without the least hesitation, select the latter.

I deliberately make this statement after working in a pit. I was smuggled down with a gang, and I made a gallant attempt to work an eight-hour shift. To my dying day I shall never forget it. The mine was what is termed a "hot pit." My sole working attire was a pair of old trousers, and a thin shirt. The place I had to work in was barely four feet high. The air I breathed during that working day was foul, the stench was frightful—the atmosphere was stifling. The coal-dust got into my eyes, ears and nostrils. I used my pick for an hour, or thereabouts, then I threw it down to the accompaniment of words that are not generally heard in the Y.M.C.A. For the remainder of that day I sat down and watched, through the black fog, a shadow use a pick.

When I regained the pit head, and was asked how I liked my experience, it was freely described. Incidentally, I took the opportunity to ask a few questions. "Look here," I said, "why the deuce do you fellows work down a pit?" There was no immediate answer, but they looked at me in amazement. I repeated my question and pressed for an answer. The most intelligent one of the group replied, "We've got to do it to live." The others agreed. Then I put them a poser—"Why do you want to live?" The answer came in chorus, "I'm damned if I know."

THE LIFE OF A COLLIER.

I have just returned from the Rhondda Valley, where there are close upon 12,000 men out of employment. Add to this the number of wives and children, and we find that there are nearly 30,000 human beings on the verge of starvation, for the strike pay of each man amounts to 10s. a week only. The masters say that the strike and lock-out are the fault of the men, and the men state that they are the fault of the masters.

A new seam of coal in one of the pits was commenced, and the men who were working in it, numbering about eighty, could not agree with the management as to price. Similar seams in the Rhondda were paying 2s. 6d. a ton. The particular pit in question offered the men 2s. 1½d. It was refused, and the men came out on strike. The owners thereupon locked out another 800 men working in the same pit. When they went to find work in other mines, they found they were blocked. The boycott of these men led to further strikes and lock-outs.

A MINER'S EARNINGS.

I am told by an official of the Miners' Federation that the average weekly wage of those who work down a pit is not more than 25s. Of course, there may be a few experienced miners who get as much as 35s. or £2. But even so, what is that considering the life they lead? It may be asked why coal is so dear, seeing that the colliers get such small wages. The answer is that the railway companies, the coal merchants and the shareholders in the mines have to be satisfied. Mines in the Rhondda Valley are now paying a dividend of 25 per cent. The railway charges for carrying a ton of coal from Wales to London is 6s. 1d. What the coal merchants' profit is, goodness knows. Briefly, then, that is the position. It is a 4½d. strike. The masters want to pay 2s. 1½d. a ton to the collier for getting the coal, and the greedy collier wants 2s. 6d.

I spent a whole day in the streets of Tonypany, and the impression I got was that before long there will be serious trouble—much more serious trouble, in fact, than there was a few months ago. The men hang round the street-corners with set, sullen faces. They converse in little groups until they are moved on by the police. The women gather on their doorsteps and in their courtyards. I have listened to their conversation many times. They are always discussing certain mines' managers, and it will be "God help" these gentlemen if ever the women get hold of them. Their pantry doors are locked, and they swear it is these managers who have the keys.

CHILDREN STARVING BUT DEFIANT.

Even the children enter into the spirit of the fight. Their mothers have taught them the lesson, and it has sunk deep down into their little souls. Coming down the main street about lunch-time, I met five of these little urchins. They were marching in the centre of the road. In their hands they had tin mugs, and they were going for their mid-day meal to the soup kitchen of the Miners' Federation. As they approached me, they saw I was a stranger. Possibly they thought I was a mine-owner, for as they came level with me they raised their tin mugs in the air, and shouted, "Are we downhearted?" and promptly they gave themselves back the answer, "No!" These children were rebels—every one of them. They may be short of food to-day, but they are learning a lesson, and when they become men and women the events of 1911 will not be forgotten.

Before leaving the Rhondda, I had a talk with an official of the Miners' Federation, and asked his opinion as to the ultimate end of the strike and lock-out. He was decidedly pessimistic. "No good whatever can come of a local strike," he said. "A national strike would put things right in twenty-four hours." "Do you think there will be any repetition of the disturbances?" I asked. And the following was the answer I got. "I don't know. In the present frame of mind of the people anything might happen." "Even to the blowing up of the mines?" I asked. He nodded his head, and walked away. There was much in that nod, though. I had previously in the day heard from a miner friend that certain desperate characters had enough dynamite, not only to blow up the mines, but the whole of the Rhondda Valley.

MORE ABOUT THE SHEFFIELD SHAMBLES.

Following up my last article, there are just a few more items I should like to mention before leaving the subject. First, about the hours. The place is certainly closed on Sundays (except for the slaughter of animals for the followers of the Jewish religion), but at any other time passers-by can almost be certain to see slaughtering going on. This is partly the outcome of supply and demand, but chiefly because there are no stated times for the dealers to buy. In any properly organised place of this kind buying would be limited to certain hours, say, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., and if required another hour or two at night. If this restriction were put on the "Shambles," all killing would be done to suit those hours, consequently a great deal less would be done during the day. As things are, sellers must knock about all day because the buyers come at all times, and as soon as a sale is effected a fresh cot of killing must be undertaken.

A REASON WHY IT IS NOT REFORMED.

Now why have not the Butchers' Association taken the matter up and pressed for reform? Here is one reason. There are, as I stated in my last article, a large number of private slaughter-houses. The butchers who own these also kill for others in the trade who are without the accommodation. If a public abattoir were built, all killing would have to be done there, and the income derived from this private slaughtering would be lost.

This, of course, only affects a few, but it is apparently the sole reason. There are over two hundred members of the Association, a great number of whom use the "Shambles," in fact there are six members of the Committee who rent stands there. Doubtless the Association as a whole would like to see the place swept away, but there are a lot who would not, for the reason stated.

I am credibly informed that what are known as "private" slaughter-houses are little, or any, better than the disgusting abattoirs I described last week. In a few cases the animals perhaps may not be so crowded, but generally what will pass in the city will pass on the outskirts, and the same raffle of garbage can be found in each. No wonder Sheffield consumes such a quantity of imported meat!

Astonishing Result of Our Recent Investigation into VIBRATION OR PULSATION TREATMENT.

Our readers will remember that a few weeks back we made a very thorough and exhaustive investigation into the subject of Vibration or Pulsation Treatment, for the cure of such ailments as — Rheumatism, Gout, Sciatica, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Paralysis, Deafness, Kidney and Liver Troubles, Indigestion, etc. The result of our investigation was that we accorded to the Veedee the credit of being not only the original, but the best machine at present on the market for the administration of Vibration or Pulsation Treatment, and it will also be remembered that the Veedee Co. celebrated our investigation by making an offer of a three days' free trial of the Veedee to all readers of JOHN BULL who were sufferers. An exceedingly interesting result followed this offer, as will be gathered from the following letter received from the Veedee Co. :—

96, Southwark Street, London, S.E.

To the Proprietors of JOHN BULL.

DEAR SIRS,—Allow us to congratulate you on your wonderful circulation.

You will remember that we made an offer to your readers some time back to lend them a Veedee on three days' free trial. Now, although we contemplated that many would avail themselves of that offer, we little dreamt of the avalanche of letters that really poured in.

However, we at last got through the work, and so gratifying were the results, that we have decided that for another fourteen days we will further extend that offer to your readers, and we should be pleased if you would acquaint them with this.

Again congratulating you on the immensity of your circulation,—We are, yours faithfully,

THE VEEDEE CO.

We are naturally glad to hear that our investigation into the Veedee produced such satisfactory results. It will be remembered that in summing up the case we said :—

"After a careful investigation of the Veedee with any other instrument of a similar kind that we have seen—in lightness and elegance of appearance and finish, in mechanical construction and adaptability to end, in comparative smoothness and silence in use (so important to nervous sufferers), in your ingenious method of producing the vibrations by means of your patent eccentric weight or fly-wheel, and above all in the infinite gradations of its strength—from the heaviest vibration down through all degrees, at will of the user or the requirements of the case—the Veedee undoubtedly bears the palm.

"Moreover . . . notwithstanding the march of progress and invention, the Veedee remains to-day the best available hand-worked means for the self or home application of this undoubtedly valuable means of treating pain and disease. Should we ever in the future ourselves need a Vibrator or Pulsator, you will get one more customer for your Veedee." Our readers who are interested should fill in form below.

Further Opportunity to the Readers of "John Bull" to get a "Free" Machine.

To the Veedee Co., 96, Southwark Street, S.E.

Please send me by return particulars of your offer of a Veedee "on approval" with three days' Free Home Trial, according to your offer in JOHN BULL, together with directions for its use for the troubles which I describe in the letter sent herewith.

Name

Address

(Please write name and address very plainly, stating full title, or if Rev., Mr., Mrs., or Miss.)

LET ME CURE YOUR CATARRH

WORLD-FAMOUS MAN'S OFFER TO ALL SUFFERERS FROM BREATHING TROUBLES.

How you may obtain immediate relief and ultimate cure for Catarrh, Cold in the Head, Asthma, Bronchitis, Coughs, Influenza, Catarrhal Deafness, Consumption, etc., etc.

Mr. R. T. Booth, who issues the following announcement, is the world-famous temperance orator, who some years ago, in co-operation with such friends and co-workers as the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, Rev. F. B. Meyer, and the late Rev. Newman Hall, Archdeacon Wilberforce, Lord Mount Temple, and others, founded the Blue Ribbon Army, which ultimately led a million to temperance. This glorious work was cut short by acute catarrh and threatened consumption, which sent him, by the order of the late Sir Andrew Clark, health-seeking to Australia. There he made his great discovery of Hyomei (pronounced Hi-o-me) which not only cured him, but has since cured multitudes of other sufferers. Hyomei is an inhalant which, being a powerful germ killer, cures by just breathing it.

Mr. R. T. Booth's words to sufferers are: "I want you to try the remedy that cured me. Twenty-five years ago, as many of you know, I was stricken with Catarrh in so malignant a form that my life was despaired of. Sir Andrew Clark, the late Mr. W. E. Gladstone's physician, advised me to make a journey to Australia, where it was hoped that the warmer climate would bring me relief. In that country I found a cure. That was twenty-five years ago, and to-day I have no signs of breathing troubles despite my age.

The remedy I discovered I named Hyomei (pronounced Hi-o-me), and I want every sufferer from breathing troubles to give it a trial. That they may do so, I have put the price within the reach of all. I implicitly believe in my remedy, and that is why I am so insistent in asking you to try it. I would not attach my name to anything unless I firmly believed that it would accomplish all that I claim for it. So great is my faith in Hyomei, moreover, that I guarantee to return your money if it does not benefit you. (See Coupon below.)

If your nose is stopped up
If you have headaches.
If your voice is dull or harsh.
If your eyes often water.
If you sleep with your mouth open.
If crust forms in the nose.
If you catch cold easily.
If your hearing is affected
If you have head noises

If your throat is dry.
If you are tired on rising.
If you have a short, hacking cough.
If you have much discharge from the nose
If your sense of smell is affected.
If mucus drops into your throat.

If, in fact, you have one or more of the above symptoms, then there is something wrong with your breathing organs, and it is now that you should get your cure, before the trouble gets worse.

CATARRH LEADS TO CONSUMPTION.

Catarrh not only impoverishes the system, lowers the vitality, poisons the stomach, and weakens the mind, but it renders the sufferer irritable, despondent, careless, dull and thoughtless, and, in nine cases out of ten, if neglected, it leads to consumption, that dread disease which takes off thousands every year.

Remember, no cough mixture, no lozenge, no drops, indeed, no medicine taken into the stomach

ever did or ever will cure or even relieve nasal or throat catarrh, consumption, influenza, bronchitis, or lung trouble. These troubles threatened my life, and drove me to Australia seeking my cure. I found it there, and called it Hyomei (pronounced Hi-o-me). It cured me twenty-five years ago, to stay cured ever since, and it can cure you. I guarantee this, or return your money. (See Coupon below.)

I have so devised the Hyomei Treatment that it gives you in your own homes dried, clean air, filtered and impregnated with cleansing and healing balms, exactly as you would get it and breathe it if you were living as I did in Australia.

Whether your trouble is in the Head; (nose) with all the horrors of foul and dropping mucus; in the Throat, with constant hacking, soreness, phlegm, and coughing; or in the Lungs,

with congestion and constant threat of Consumption, there is not in the world a treatment that should be mentioned in the same breath as the Hyomei Treatment for the relief and cure of the above troubles."

R. T. BOOTH.

The Hyomei Outfit for giving Mr. Booth's treatment contains an inhaler with supply of antiseptic gauze, a bottle of the inhalant "Hyomei," and directions how to use it for Nasal and Throat Catarrh, Head Cold, as well as for such other

troubles as Coughs, Colds, Influenza, Bronchitis, Asthma, Wheezing, Difficult Breathing, Tonsillitis, Whooping Cough, Croup, Catarrhal Deafness, Laryngitis, Consumption, Hay Fever, Throat troubles, including, in fact, all respiratory troubles, and the price of the complete Hyomei Outfit, to place it within the reach of all, is 2s. 6d. complete.

A copy of the Booklet giving the account of Mr. Booth's discovery will be sent free to all who send for it, but all sufferers are advised to lose no time, but post at once coupon below, with P.O. or stamps for a complete Hyomei Outfit, seeing that delay in starting to cure such troubles is dangerous.

To Mr. R. T. Booth, 366, Roycroft House, 96, Southwark Street, London, S.E.

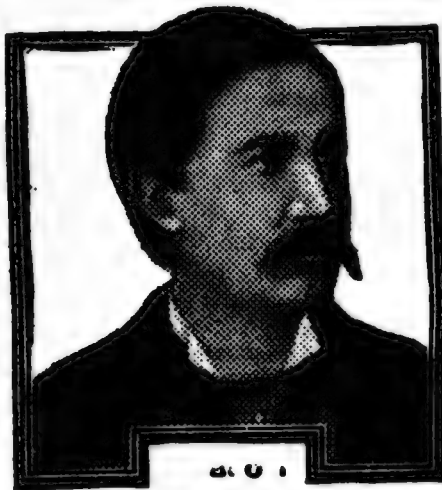
I enclose herewith 2s. 6d. (to be refunded in full if I write you that the Hyomei Treatment has done me no good), for which you will please send me a complete Hyomei Pocket Outfit, together with full directions for the application of the Hyomei Treatment. 1s. extra abroad.

Name
(Write very plainly, stating if Rev., Mr., Mrs., or Miss.)

Address

IMPORTANT NOTE:

You are invited to write a separate letter to me, giving me full particulars of your trouble, and I will endeavour to send you a letter of special advice and guidance of how you may get rid of same.
(Signed) R. T. BOOTH.



Mr. R. T. Booth, Advocate, Social Reformer, Temperance Expert, Founder of the Blue Ribbon Army, and Discoverer of Hyomei.

JOHN PASSMORE EDWARDS.

BY ONE WHO KNEW HIM.

"On ne doit aux morts que la vérité."

There died on Saturday last a remarkable man, John Passmore Edwards, sometime owner and editor of the *Echo*, and since then a contributor to the creation of many free libraries. It would be difficult to find his like. He was amongst the most unlovable of men. "When you die," said one of his *Echo* staff to him, "there will not be man, woman, or child to shed a tear for you." "It may be so," was the unmoved reply, "but"—slapping his pocket—"my income last year was nearly £35,000, and I spent £3,000." Not that he had always been a rich man. The son of a Cornish carpenter, it was not until he got well under way with the *Echo* that he could be properly called wealthy. For much of his life he was a lecturer, and at one time he had to call his creditors together. This led to one of the most praiseworthy incidents of his life. So soon as he had the means, he not only paid everyone 20s. in the £, but added interest. In 1883, he sold the *Echo* to Mr. Andrew Carnegie and Mr. Samuel Storey for £70,000. When the time came for handing over the paper he shrank from severing his connection with it, and paid £5,000 forfeit. Next year he sold it to the same gentlemen for £75,000, retaining a third interest. But though out of the business he so continually interfered with it, that two years later Messrs. Carnegie and Storey told him they would buy him out on the valuation of the paper at £100,000, or he must buy them out on the same terms. He said he would sell, and a dinner was arranged at the Metropole, with Mr. Carnegie in the chair, to celebrate the transfer. The *Echo* staff were rejoicing at the change—a little prematurely. At the dinner, Mr. Edwards announced that within the last hour or two the arrangements had been altered. It was not he but Messrs. Carnegie and Storey who were to go. He repurchased the paper for £100,000.

As an employer, Mr. Passmore Edwards left much to be desired. No one felt safe with him. Faithful and continuous service did not weigh with him if by change he could save a few pounds. He was constantly changing his sub-editors. He would advertise for a young man, offering him £4 a week. Many a time a lad from the North was chosen, and he would come down to London with wife and children, full of hope. For a few weeks all would be well, then—a month's notice, and stranded in London. Mr. Edwards lived the life of an ascetic, and expected others to do so. He did not drink, or smoke, for many years he was a vegetarian, and having read somewhere that our coal supplies were running short, he would sit in his room on the coldest day of winter without a fire. Upon one occasion, when the thermometer was near zero, the housekeeper thought she might venture on a fire in his room. She was told that if she ever repeated the offence she would be dismissed.

In 1880, Mr. Passmore Edwards became Member for Salisbury. Why he wanted to go into Parliament is a mystery. He never spoke during the five years he was a member. His greatest achievement was to ask a question, generally about one in the Session. He was never seen to walk up the floor of the House, excepting when he took the oath, preferring to slink round to a back seat. Upon one occasion he had allowed a leader writer to make a strong statement about an Irish incident. It was brought to the notice of Mr. Gladstone across the floor of the House, who, *more sive*, hotly affirmed that there was not a word of truth in it. The leader writer had no difficulty in showing that it was absolutely true, but Mr. Passmore Edwards could not muster up courage enough to face the Prime Minister, and it was left to a member of the Opposition, to remind Mr. Gladstone of the facts.

It was not until late in life that Mr. Passmore Edwards began to be a philanthropist of a sort, to spend money in helping to erect free libraries. At first his philanthropy consisted of presents of books, and as these were limited to review copies sent to the *Echo*, he was able to be generous without sacrifice. As the years passed, he began to give large sums for free libraries and other purposes, and the total amount he has given must be a very large one. It will probably be found that these gifts have eaten largely into his estate, and it must have been a consolation to him to reflect that the Exchequer will not be a great gainer by his death.

HOVIS BREAD

Has for 25 years represented the highest standard of bread economy. HOVIS BREAD has more food in it than any other.

A Hovis loaf contains 100% of the semolina and as much germ as all the flour required to make 27 white loaves of the same weight.

HOVIS BREAD

THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF NOURISHMENT

Hovis Bread yields more than twice as much usable nourishing matter as ordinary bread or the recent so called standard or 80% bread—not merely because it contains this additional nutriment, but also because ALL THE NUTRIMENT WHICH HOVIS CONTAINS IS DIGESTIBLE AND USABLE BY THE HUMAN BODY.

Of all the elements in wheat, the germ—1½% of the whole—is by far the most nourishing. Much is made of the fact that this 1½% of germ is retained in certain breads.

IN HOVIS 25% of the ENTIRE LOAF IS GERM

DR. ROBERT HUTCHISON
the greatest living authority on
Food questions, deliberately
states that "with the free add-
ition of butter or some other fat
HOVIS BREAD IS NOT FAR
FROM BEING A COMPLETE FOOD."

(See Hutchison's "Food and Principles of Dietetics.")

HOVIS BREAD contains three times as much bone-making material and twice as much muscle-forming and energy-making material as the best ordinary or standard bread.

HOVIS BREAD



CHAIRMAN.

And there is no finer tobacco. Cool, yet fragrant: of a flavour that is exceptional, yet wholly pleasing. Whether smoked much or little it is always satisfying—always realises anticipation.

BOARDMAN'S is the same tobacco, milder, and
RECORDER the same, but fuller flavoured.

6d. per oz. everywhere.

R. J. LEA, Limited, Manchester.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. CLEMENT SCOTT.

"A BUTTERFLY ON THE WHEEL."

There can have been but one idea, and one alone, in the minds of Messrs. Hemmerde and Neilson when they decided to write this powerfully realistic drama, and that is to show up in all its startling nakedness, and terrifying horrors, the cruel abominations of the Divorce Law as it exists in this country for women.

If the veil of modesty envelops a woman when she enters the witness-box of the Divorce Court, before she leaves it every atom will be torn to shreds and scattered broadcast. And still it is the law, and by such we must abide. If but to gloat over the hideousness of that one great scene, which is so accurately and truthfully facsimiled at the Globe Theatre, "A Butterfly on the Wheel" should draw all London to this playhouse.

You may call Peggy Admaston foolish, flighty, indiscreet, and frivolous, if you will; still, for all that, she is at heart merely a child, an innocent, gay, careless young girl, with no single thought of evil-doing in her mind, no other feeling beyond the very joy of living; but for all that she gets caught in a trap set for her by an unscrupulous woman, who uses as her weapon to destroy a handsome, love-sick fellow, and before Peggy knows where she is, her pretty wings are scorched by the burning "Flame of Hate"—she is crushed, broken, and in her maimed condition is powerless to fly away again.

The Right Hon. George Admaston, M.P., wholly absorbed in himself and his political career, is suddenly awakened to the fact that he cares for his hitherto neglected wife by receiving an anonymous letter which informs him that his Peggy—the beautiful dream of budding womanhood he took from a father's care—has been tricked, hustled on to the wrong train, and taken off to Paris with her maid and the devoted Roderick Collingwood.

"Why you never even wanted her until you knew another man was after her," sneers "Collin," to the husband with such a world of truth in the taunt—the husband who married Peggy knowing all there is to know of life's pitfalls and its wicked snares—the poor young wife having all to learn.

What could anyone expect to be the outcome of such a marriage? Was Peggy never to become part and parcel of George Admaston's home? Was she only to be treated as a baby—given toys to play with and left to her own devices and the affection of her maid? Was it so very wonderful that Roderick Collingwood, seeing her so lonely and forlorn, should fall desperately in love with her, and that he, too, never having met before a really pure woman, should struggle, no matter how unfairly, to gain Peggy for his own? And then the terrible awakening for the child-wife, when she sees, and understands! What an exquisite performance Miss Madge Titheradge gives of little Peggy. She is the mischievous imp, the girl, and the soul-tortured woman all rolled into one. A lovely leaf of human nature folded between the pages of a volume filled with tenderness, innocence, charm, and pathos.

"A Butterfly on the Wheel" is, as I hinted before, a vigorous protest against the law of divorce, and a forcible demand for its instantaneous reform. It makes your blood boil and your fingers twitch to watch Mr. Norman McKinnel as he blandly and unctuously questions and cross-questions the miserably condemned woman in the Court scene, when he literally drags answers from her and so twists and winds things up to justify his endeavours to obtain a "guilty" verdict, that in a final hysterical outburst Peggy cries, "What use is it for me to say no? If I were to say this is white one moment, you would make me say it was black the next. I tell you I am innocent, I am innocent, but you won't believe me."

A Tobacco Discovery

HILL'S

Nyasa

Smoking Mixture

Sweet, Cool, and Free Burning.

5d. per oz. Cartridges 5½d.

NYASA Cigarettes,
3d. for 10.Sole Makers, R. & J. HILL, Ltd.,
175c, Shoreditch, London, E.

"Golsport" means Jacke-easiness
on Golf links or in Garden chair.

The "Golsport" is a Jacket built for a man's playtime—strenuous and vigorous or restful and recreative. The shape is such—with pleats at back—that arms up or arms forward, stretching or swinging, there is not the slightest trace of "drag" anywhere. The cloths are the durable Donegals, Homespuns or Scotch Tweeds and as to fitting the average man with anything between 34 and 44 inch chest, we can fit on the spot, while unusual sizes are either altered or made without extra charge and at the cost of very little time indeed.

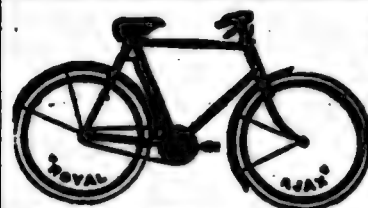
Golsport
In Action.



PRICE 30/-

CARRIAGE PAID IN BRITISH ISLES.

SELFRIDGE & Co., Ltd.,
OXFORD ST. LONDON, W.



ROYAL AJAX

Established 25 Years.
From 6/- Per Month.OR SECOND-HAND
22 10s. Cash.

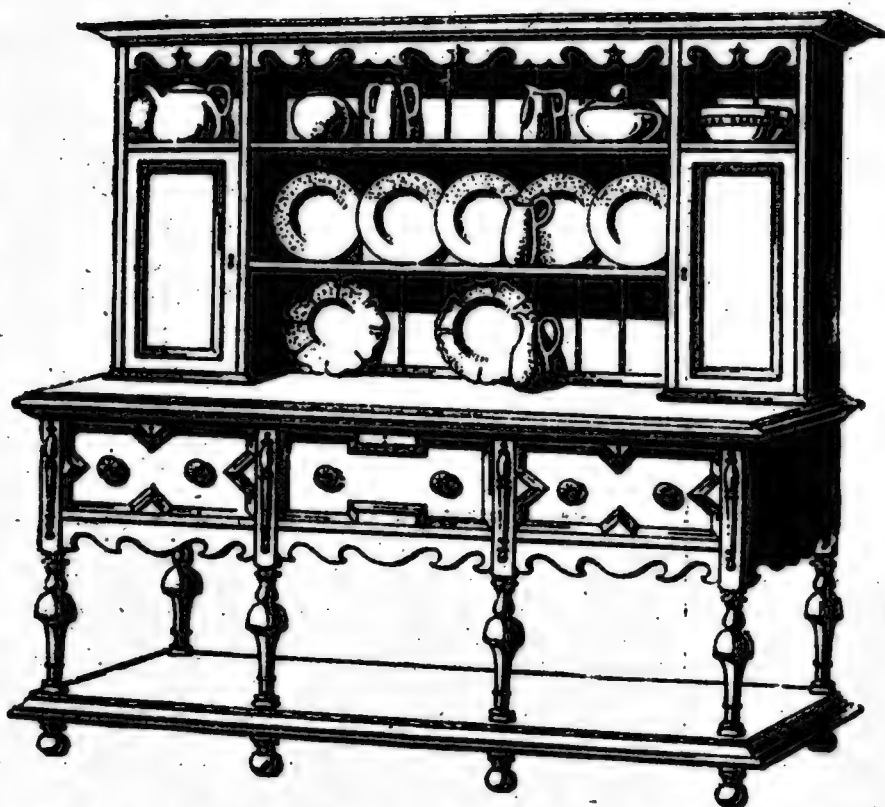
LISTS POST FREE

BRITISH Cycle Mfg. Co. (1900), Ltd. (Dept. A), 123, Barry St., LI ERP 101.

WATSON'S BLUE BAND WHISKY

This is the last week of our Great Furniture Sale, but for the benefit of those Customers who do not desire immediate delivery, we will warehouse any goods in our depositories free of charge for 6 months.

All goods sold by us are of first-class quality, many of the articles being of exclusive design and the construction and finish leaves nothing to be desired.



A beautiful example of an antique style dresser in oak. This design is a reproduction of the Jacobean period and can be finished in antique or fumed colour. Usual price £9 19 6.

Sale price £8 18 6

The Dresser illustrated gives one a fair idea of our value.

Special Sale Catalogue sent post free on application.

As a special inducement to Country Customers to visit our Showrooms, we will pay their fares to Town on all orders of £30 and upwards. Country orders packed free and carriage paid. During the Sale we will allow, for prompt cash, an additional discount of 10 per cent. All goods can be obtained on our Gradual Payment System.

OUR GRADUAL PAYMENT SYSTEM. If desired, payments may be extended over 1, 2, or 3 years at the purchaser's option. No interest or extra charge whatsoever is made and no deposit is required. This system affords the fairest and most equitable method for those wishing to pay for their furniture out of their income rather than out of their capital.

Midland Furnishing Co., Ltd.
15, 17, 19, 21 & 23, Southampton Row,
HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

Six doors from the Holborn Restaurant and Holborn Station (G.N., P. & B. Rly.), 1 minute from British Museum Station (Central London Railway), and 3 minutes from Oxford Street.

The John Bull League.

BRANCH REPORTS.

PLYMOUTH AND DEVONPORT.—As will be seen by the announcement on the first page of this issue, a grand smoking concert will be held in the Palm Court, Royal Hotel, Plymouth, on Wednesday next, May 3rd, at 8 p.m. Members and friends are particularly requested to attend, and the Local Secretary, Mr. A. E. Hutchings, of 20, Albert Road, Plymouth, will be glad to receive any offers of voluntary talent. Members residing in the Devonport district willing to serve on the committee of the new branch are invited to communicate with Mr. E. G. Warn, 104, Townshend Avenue, Keyham Barton, or the local secretary, as above.

LIVERPOOL.—The Liverpool branch held another successful whist drive on last Thursday evening, April 20th. It was well attended, and a good number of new members were enrolled. The handsome prizes were distributed by Mrs. Haines, wife of the local secretary, who acted as M.C. After the interval an interesting little function took place. Mr. F. O. Rowlands (vice-chairman), in a short address, stated that this being the last whist drive of the season, the committee thought it a fitting occasion to show, in some slight measure, their appreciation of the splendid services rendered to the League by the Local Secretary (Mr. G. S. Haines), ably assisted by his wife, by making them a presentation on the twelfth anniversary of their wedding. This took the form of a handsome massive silver and cut-glass fruit and flower table centre. Mr. Haines thanked the committee for their present and kindly feeling, remarking in the course of a neat little speech, that he worked with pleasure for the League, on account of his whole-hearted belief in its objects, and its power for good in the future.

BRISTOL.—A very successful public meeting was held at the St. James' Hall on April 19th, Mr. M. Waldron presiding. After the rendering of an overture, the Chairman briefly outlined the objects of the meeting, and called on Mr. B. G. Brown for an address. Taking "The Objects and Aims of the League" as his subject, Mr. Brown showed in a concise manner how the League would deal with present-day questions in a commonsense way. His exposures of the methods of some of the "benevolent" institutions, and his remarks on the selection of judges and magistrates were heartily appreciated, as was his criticism of current politics. After questions had been answered, the audience were entertained by the "Two Pooles." A strong committee was formed, and several new members were enrolled as a result of the meeting. Mr. S. Kleinadt was elected Secretary for Bristol (North).

SHEFFIELD.—A well-attended smoking concert and dance was held by this branch on Thursday, April 20th, in the Cambridge Hall, Sheffield. Mr. E. W. Moseley (the newly-elected vice-chairman of the branch) presided, in the unavoidable absence of Dr. Wilson, and a high-class musical programme was gone through. Mr. W. J. Parker opened with a pianoforte solo, which was well received; Mr. E. H. Thomas sang the "Veteran's song" in good style; Mr. J. H. Froggatt scored with a humorous song, entitled "Me no likee, likee"; Mr. Farron Sumner (who is a great favourite in Sheffield) fairly brought down the house with "The Trumpeter"; and Mr. Claude Boulby (another popular local artiste) was accorded hearty applause for his rendering of "Just for a girl." The "Aims and Objects of the League" were dealt with in an address by the Central Secretary (Mr. T. J. Lee), after which the usual resolution was put by Mr. Vernon Allen, seconded by Mr. T. J. Lalor, and carried unanimously. A number of membership forms were collected by the stewards from various members of the audience. The remainder of the musical programme was then proceeded with, items being rendered by Messrs. Farron Sumner, E. H. Thomas, and Claude Boulby, whose efforts were cordially received. The concert terminated at 10 p.m., and dancing then took place until midnight, the M.C. being Mr. Vernon Allen, and the pianist Mr. Tate, jun., who was also accompanist for the concert, and who performed his duties in a very efficient manner. The addresses of the District Secretaries are as follows:—*Attercliffe* Division, W. H. Chapman, 73, Willoughb Street, Firth Park; *Brightside* Division, T. J. Lalor, 9, Hinde House Lane, Pitmoor; *Ecclesall* Division, V. Allen, 16, Ashdell Road, Broomhill; *Hallam* Division, J. H. Froggatt, 68, Leader Road, Hillsborough; *Rotherham* Division, C. H. Hinchcliffe, 63, Effingham Street, Rotherham. Will members residing in any of these districts kindly communicate with their district secretary, with a view to the formation of a committee and the appointment of a chairman for each district. An active plan of campaign is to be entered upon during the ensuing months, and strong efforts will be made to double the membership of the branch by the end of the year.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD.—A highly successful winter session, which has resulted in the membership of the branch being doubled, will be brought to a close to-morrow (Friday) evening with a smoking concert in the Marble Hall of the Albion Hotel. A splendid programme has been provided, and a most enjoyable evening will doubtless be spent.

Electricity v. Medicine.

An Interesting Discussion of an Interesting Subject.

This subject is one that is occupying a prominent place in the experiments of all progressive medical men. The success attained with electricity has even astonished some of its strongest advocates. Dr. Poore, writing upon the subject of electricity, in one of his well-known works, says:—"No other single therapeutical agent is so generally useful or admits of so many and such varied applications—for some of which it stands alone and supreme." That opinion is shared by all those who have made a close study of the subject. The wonderful success of electricity in cases where drugs have utterly failed, has forced belief in the efficacy of the latter almost to the vanishing point. "Electricity is the medicine of the future," writes another authority.

The following interesting article by Prof. Edgar L. Larkin, discussing "The New Physiology," is illustrative of the trend of thought: "The trend of science is toward electricity on all sides. Discoveries made hour by hour point to one grand conclusion—the substratum of Nature is electricity. Life, force, and mind are intimately related with it. All animals are merely electrical machines. A man, brain and body, is a battery, and nerves correspond to wires. It is now certain that transmission over them is electric. The human system is an electro-chemic battery, and the life principle is electrical. The electric age is here. Drugs are hard hit on all sides, and an intelligent physician tells me that he has almost entirely stopped their use. The word health now means a normal supply of electricity in the body, and the word disease means an insufficiency of that power."

That electricity is a powerful curative agent is a fact too well known to require further illustrative proofs. It is a positive cure for all Stomach Troubles, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, Nervousness, Paralysis, Epilepsy, Kidney, Liver, Bladder, and Bowel Complaints, and all forms of weakness.

How many men and women are going through life mere pigmies of what they should be! They lack interest in everything—enjoy nothing. And why? Because they are weak, which means they lack electricity. Such persons can be made strong and robust, perfect specimens of health and vigour. The means is easy and simple. An electric current flowing into their nerve centres while they rest, and there is soon a transformation.

A body battery has been invented for applying electricity to the nerve centres. It is called "Ajax" Dry-Cell—requires no charging, generates a strong current, and is always ready for use. It has cured thousands, and is certain in every case undertaken.

Electricity is the ideal treatment for rheumatism and gout. Mr. G. Duddridge, Hudscott, Umberleigh, R.S.O., N. Devon, reports his cure in these words:—"I am happy to say that I have derived very great benefit by using the 'Ajax' Dry-Cell Battery, and my rheumatism and gout are practically all right."

The report of Mr. Thos. Lewis, 33, Urban Street, Pen-y-darren, Merthyr Tydvil, is a remarkable one considering his paralysed condition. He says:—"Since I have been using the battery the pains have gone, and I feel like a different man. I cannot give thanks enough for the good it has done me. The battery is still as good as new."

At the International Exhibition the "Ajax" Dry-Cell Body Battery was awarded the Diploma with Grand Prix and Gold Medal. The award was given through the medical section of the Exhibition, and specially praises the system of applying the current as well as the battery. This is the highest honour ever gained by an electric treatment.

An interesting book of eighty pages has recently been published. It is full of interesting facts, and free to anyone who writes for it. Every person, man or woman, who is not what he or she should be, should write for this book at once. It will point out the way whereby the blessings of perfect health can be enjoyed. It is based upon the latest standard works, and contains many valuable opinions and much useful information. A postcard or letter sent to The British Electric Institute (Dept. 41), 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C., will bring it at once in a plain sealed envelope. All advice is free. This new method has been awarded the *Science Siftings' Certificate of Merit*.

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—

Isn't the Veto Bill already heavily discounted?
 Will the Pistols Bill be "dred"?
 Have the Socialists given up their "revolting" ideas?
 Aren't the Mormons already "put out"?
 Isn't the Board of Trade American report making a noise?
 Do they call it the "Whine"-growing district in France now?
 Will the Sultan of Morocco get a tanned hide?
 Does Mexico want to become an United State?
 Wouldn't a taxi-cab strike make the public tired?
 Isn't the theatre queue substitute likely to lose standing?

Hungary is stated to have 60,000 cafés. Hungary is evidently thirsty.

Germany wants an international language for commerce. What's the matter with the one that money talks?

A woman named Mary Charity pleaded guilty to begging at Willesden. Charity must have faith and hope—for better things.

The man at Florence who shot himself because he had lost his appetite evidently only lived to eat.

A Berlin mendicant admits that he has amassed £3,200 by his calling. Lucky beggar.

"Home is the human nest," says the *Englishwoman*. Pity the occupants so often "fall out."

The "peep-hole" umbrella, with little windows in it, will, we fear, not be popular among seaside couples on the sands.

"Our Nervous System" is the name of a new one-act play. Nothing shocking, we hope.

They had a breakdown on the Underground Railway recently. The delayed passengers also danced.

"Spotted Fever in London," reads a headline. We are so glad it is "spotted."

"Money has no sense of humour," according to Martin Swayne. Maybe, but it frequently makes fools of people.

In a French Rugby football match one team beat the other by 160 points to nothing. What a game!

"Bath on the Stage," we read. Someone will be getting into hot water.

The *Mail* offers £100 for a loaf. *Mrs. Bull* is giving £250 for her "cottage."

The "cowboy" baronet has become "converted." The Salvation Army has "roped him in."

A man charged at Enfield said, "Parsons are a dry lot." Evidently a churchgoer.

"I do not know whether scandal is a disease," says Father Vaughan. We think so; someone generally catches it.

A German wants a divorce because his wife added four noughts to the pound in her bank book before he married her. Naughty girl!

Vicars still complain that they cannot get curates. And the curate grumbles that he can't get a living.

A flag bearing "Wreck. P.L.A." has been hoisted over a barge which sank in the Thames at Blackfriars. Do the letters mean "Please Leave Alone"?

When Mrs. Armfield says, "There are hundreds of right points of view," she underestimates. There is one for each of us.

TRADE NOTE.

ECONOMISING IN LAUNDRY BILLS.

A man who makes but three changes of collar weekly and two changes of cuffs, pays for washing 26s. a year, plus a considerable amount for the inevitable renewals. Moreover, he is seldom fortunate enough to escape the torture of jagged and cutting edges to his collars, and the humiliation of frayed, disreputable-looking cuffs. The "Everclean"—which is not celluloid, or rubber, or a substitute of any kind, but a real shirting, stitched, starched, and ironed—claims to save all this. It is waterproofed with a patent colourless substance, which defies detection as easily as it defies dirt—a mud-spot may be rubbed off with a moistened handkerchief. Grease and ink stains can be removed with equal facility. If, by constant friction, any part of collar or cuff should have the waterproofing rubbed off, the article need not be thrown away; it can be turned into ordinary material for the laundry after it has been boiled in caustic soda, and will still have a life of usefulness before it.

AN IDEAL SPORTING PICTORIAL.

Every reader of JOHN BULL who takes an interest in Sport—not only Racing, but Cricket, Rowing, Football, Boxing, and all other branches of athletics—should make a point of reading LOTINGA'S WEEKLY EVERY WEDNESDAY ONE PENNY.

Have you seen THE MISSING LINK ?

£100 IN PRIZES GUARANTEED THIS WEEK.

You have tried limericks and possibly have never invented a winning line. Has the fault been yours? Probably not. The task may have been too difficult or the judging not wise, but whether you have or not, you should try the latest thing in competitions, "The Missing Link"—the most entertaining and simple prize scheme ever evolved.

Every Reader of "John Bull" can enter.

What is the Missing Link? Here is the idea in a nutshell. In each week's issue of "Mrs. Bull" is given a verse from which one line is missing. All you have to do is to complete the verse. Find what you consider to be the cleverest and aptest line, send it in and win a prize. The following is this week's verse:—

A pleasant holiday you'd spend
 At Glac on, Blackpool or Southend,
 And yet you can't afford to go

For your guidance here is an example of a final line:—

Your thoughts are high, but funds are low.

Readers of JOHN BULL can make use of the free coupon below, which fill in and send with a postal order for 6d. to "Mrs. Bull," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., by Tuesday, May 2nd. Mark your envelope "Link." Ten big cash prizes will be awarded to the owners of the ten best lines, and various cash prizes to those next in order of merit.

Read the Conditions below.

1. Send a line to complete the above verse.
 2. All lines must be written on the coupon below, additional coupons to be taken from JOHN BULL or "Mrs. Bull," but all should be sent in one envelope.
 3. For every two lines you send you must remit a Postal Order for Sixpence and each Postal Order should be made payable to the Editor, "Mrs. Bull," and should be crossed "and Co."
 4. All the money received (less 10 per cent. for working expenses) will be divided amongst the successful competitors.
 5. To the senders of the ten best lines, Large Cash Prizes will be awarded, and other Cash Prizes to numbers of others sending the next best lines. Not less than £100 will be awarded this week, but it may be considerably more.
 6. In everything connected with the Competition the Editor's decision will be absolutely final, and readers may enter only on that clear understanding. No correspondence whatever can be entered into in connection with this competition. Remember you can send two lines for each Sixpence that you remit. You are not bound to send two. One alone may win.
- All lines must reach "Mrs. Bull," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., by Tuesday, May 2nd.
 Mark your envelopes "Link."

FREE COUPON.

COUPON No. 5, closing Tuesday, May 2.

MISSING LINK COMPETITION.

Line suggested

.....

Second Line suggested

.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

No. of Postal Order

Fill it up NOW, and Make Money!

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS. when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of enquiries received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and only those of general interest will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.

AUTHORS and ARTISTS submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work when stamped, addressed envelopes are sent for this purpose. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page). The Editor cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect.

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENCE is increasing steadily. In future, we will disregard any letter which is not duly authenticated with name and address, which may be given in strict confidence.

FORWARDING LETTERS, ETC.—Our correspondence is growing so enormously that we have to discourage all idea of putting our readers into communication with one another. If the practice grew, we should want an extra staff of clerks, fresh offices, and Jim Crow to keep the peace.

ERNEST RUSKIN WEATHERALL, who was last heard of at Caracoles, Isthmus of Panama, on May 11th, 1909, is earnestly requested to write to his father at West Hartlepool.

G. S. (Didsbury) sends us a letter from a Sheffield friend, energetically taking up the cudgels on behalf of the *Sheffield City Guild of Help*, stating that the Guild is not a charity, but endeavours "to help people to help themselves." Out of work cases are assisted to work, if it is in the power of the Guild to find it, while sick people are assisted with tickets. As to the case referred to by us, our correspondent's friend is not in a position to speak—"some Helpers become apathetic or disheartened"—but has forwarded the article to the secretary.

"O." tells us that since our exposures of *Smyers* and his "*Commercial Advance Company*," he has ceased to advertise in his registered name—at least as far as Birmingham is concerned—and is now trading under the name of his manager, M. B. Babbins. Even if the police wink at obtaining money by "promises which it is not intended to fulfil," shouldn't they prosecute *Smyers* for infringing the Moneylenders' Act?

In reference to the recent communication from "F.C. and Co. (Kingsway)," it appears that the documents, the issue of which preceded payment of the amount claimed by their client, were County Court summonses, and not writs, the first against the *National Society of Chauffeurs*, being found to be inoperative, as it was an unregistered or unincorporated body, and the second having been taken out against the Society, its Trustee and Secretary. The Society's solicitor, however, now informs us that it has been placed upon a satisfactory basis—under the supervision of the Hon. Rupert Guinness—and this, therefore, will meet an objection which has hitherto been made to it.

Joe (Barking).—Just try your luck at "Links" now, Joe; they are easy and interesting.

W. J. (Dublin) says it would be better if *Harrod's* paid less dividend and treated their assistants better.

G. N. (Edgware Road) says we could at once abolish favouritism in appointing relieving officers, if we urged the adoption of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws. But he will have to wait for a Business Government before our advice takes instant effect. It certainly seems a shame that a Commission which cost about £55,000 should not yet have led to any reform.

H. L. (Johannesburg) says that, if challenged M.P.'s were not allowed to sit, it would be easy to create confusion by challenging the whole House. Rather an expensive amusement, though.

Mrs. N. C. (Tooting) exposes the *Easy Terms Supply Co.*, 7, Featherstone Buildings, High Holborn, who supply boots on anything but easy terms—in fact, not until all instalments have been paid.

H. W. M. (Northwich) inquires about the *Peiman-Foster School of Memory*, Bloomsbury Street, and *T.P.'s Weekly Correspondence College*, Tavistock Street. Both quite respectable.

Messrs. FREEMAN and LAMBOURNE, of 12, Theobalds Road, H. Holborn, W.C., who carry on the business of *Debt Collectors*, disclaim the charges made against them in our recent articles on "Debt Collectors and their Dufes," and on reference to the documents we find that we inadvertently put upon them certain items which should have been applied to another collecting concern, "The United Kingdom Colonial and Foreign General Accountancy Offices." We must be fair—even to Debt Collectors—and therefore willingly make this correction.

W. M. E. (Crouch Hill) writes with great indignation about the *Homes of All Nations Exhibition*. He espied a notice of "a pot of tea, freshly made, 4d.," and was disgusted at a charge of 8d. when he attempted to share it with a friend. But we agree with the caterers about one man, one pot—and we are not greatly impressed by our correspondent's storm in a teapot.

"A LOVER OF FAIR PLAY" has worked 26 years for *Peck, Frean and Co.*, and defends their practice of searching their men. We are quite ready to believe that the heads of the firm are generally kind, but that is no excuse for the maintenance of a humiliating rule.

C. N. W. (Billericay) sends a cutting about some people who took their servant into their family pew and then tried to make her pay part of the pew rent. We certainly think she should be allowed the option of taking a walk with her young man.

P. W. (Stockton-on-Tees).—1½d. and 1½d. per hour do not sound princely for overtime. We suppose employers are always entitled to dismiss people, just as you are entitled to throw up your job. Why not consult your Trade Union secretary?

(Continued on page 694.)

A. W. GAMAGE, LTD.

10 per cent. Dividend Maintained.

The Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of A. W. Gamage, Ltd., was held on April 20th at the Holborn Restaurant, Holborn, W.C. Mr. A. W. Gamage (the chairman of the Company) presiding. In moving the adoption of the report he said that the turnover for the past year was the largest on record, but he was sorry to say that the net profits had not increased quite in proportion. This was partly attributable to the wet season last year, followed by the death of King Edward, but the principal cause for the diminution in profits was the fact that the price of raw materials, especially with regard to rubber goods, was very high last year.

With regard to Benetfink's, the dividend was 7½ per cent., the same as in the previous year, and, in addition, considerable sums had been written off for depreciation. That business was now in a very prosperous state, and the shareholders ought to be satisfied with the return they were getting. In reply to several shareholders who had said to him: "You have not written down your goodwill," his answer had been that he not see any advantage in that course. At the time the Company was formed the goodwill was fixed at £43,300, and since then the turnover had become five times that amount—so that, instead of cutting down the goodwill, he thought they might do as did a certain firm in the West End recently, viz., have their business valued and put the goodwill up. (Hear, hear.) He was pleased that they were giving the shareholders the same dividend this year as last, but the directors did not take the step forward last year until they found that they could keep it up, and he thought that they were trading on safe ground in not giving a higher dividend than 10 per cent. (Applause).

The report was unanimously adopted.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was afterwards held, when certain alterations in the Articles of Association were agreed to.

For Men of Taste.

The handkerchief with the unqualified Colour Guarantee:

"We agree to give you, free of all cost, half a dozen Pyramid Handkerchiefs for every one you send to us that has lost its colour in the laundry."

"Pyramids" are soft and fine in texture, pleasant to use—and unusually durable.

Tasteful border designs and colourings, and in ALL-WHITE patterns.

Ask your outfitter to show you. If any difficulty write to

PYRAMID, Dept. 4,
132 Chesapeake,
London, E.C.

9d. each

4/3 HALF-DOZEN

Sample Handkerchief 9d. p. at free.

PYRAMID
HANDKERCHIEFS

MATINEE

CIGARETTES

An Original
blend of HIGH
GRADE TURKISH
TOBACCOS

Size per 100. 50. 25.

1 8/- 4/- 2/-

2 7/- 3/6

3 6/- 3/- 1/6

ONE QUALITY ONLY.

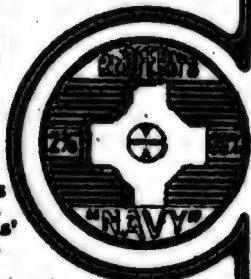
OF ALL
HIGH CLASS
TOBACCONISTS

There is no heel-shock when
walking if your boots are
fitted with

**Redfern's
NAVY
Rubber
Heels.**



Men's
6d.
Ladies'
4d.



From Boot Repairers everywhere.
Write for Booklet "How to fit rubber heels."

Redfern's Rubber Works, Hyde.
near Manchester.

L13

JUNON Aromatic BATH MUSTARD

Adds zest to the bath. Adds a piquancy, a deliciousness, that is delightfully refreshing and invigorating. Imparts a delicate perfume to the skin. Softens the hardest water. Has a tonic effect on the nerves and circulation. Prevents chill after violent exercise or exposure to inclement weather.

For Wet or Aching Feet

Soak the feet for 20 minutes in a footbath containing water as hot as can be borne, with a proportion of JUNON Aromatic Bath Mustard added. Add hot water from time to time to maintain the temperature.

1/6, 2/6 & 3/6 a box



JUNON Hair TONIC

Restores gloss and brilliancy—stops hair falling—nourishes and strengthens the roots—removes dandruff—positively makes the hair grow—is a beneficial and pleasant dressing for daily use.

Recommended for use in conjunction with JUNON Hair Stains.
Two kinds: Greasy for dry and brittle hair; Non-greasy for greasy hair.

Post **1/- & 2/6** Free

Securely packed in plain package.

JUNON Hair STAIN

This is the only permanent and really satisfactory one solution hair stain—absolutely harmless—perfectly natural tints—easily applied in one operation—defies detection—does not stain the skin.

In Eight Standard Shades:—
Black, Dark Brown, Medium Brown, Chestnut, Golden Chestnut, Light Golden Chestnut, Golden, Light Golden.

Post **1/- & 2/9** Free

Securely packed in plain package.

JUNON Ltd., 57, Marsham St., Westminster, S.W.

Sole Manufacturers—

J. & Co.

BY APPOINTMENT.

Owbridge's

Lung Tonic

The most up-to-date, best known
and most successful Remedy
in the World for

COUGHS & COLDS

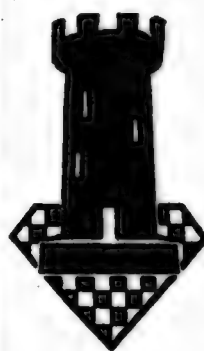
Invaluable to SPEAKERS, SINGERS, and
all who suffer from THROAT WEAKNESS.

CAUTION.—Ask for "Owbridge" and
take no substitute.
This is the Best, Cheapest, and Safest way to recovery.

W. T. OWBRIDGE, Ltd.,
Manufacturers, The Laboratory, HULL.
Established 1874.

Sold everywhere in bottles, at
1s. 1/4d., 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d. & 11s.

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Castle Collars

are faced with our pure Irish Linen, which retains its snowy linen whiteness after repeated washings. The shapes are good without being extreme.

—AND the price, from six for 2/6, lower than is often charged for collars much their inferior.

Dress Shirts, "Matchless" quality, 5/11 each; with pleated fronts, 6/6 each.
Shirts refitted, 14 - per half-dozen.
Zephyr or Oxford Shirts, best quality, made to order, 6/3 each.

Illustrated Lists post free.

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44, E. Donegall Place,

LONDON. BELFAST. LIVERPOOL.

The Latest SMITH PREMIER TYPEWRITERS



ARE NOT SIMPLY UP-TO-DATE. THEY ANTICIPATE THE NEEDS OF THE FUTURE.

Ball-bearing type bars,—
writes in 2 colours,—
lightning escapement,—
interchangeable carriages,
Absolutely Visible Writing.

Circular about this and other features sent free.

We manufacture Ten different models of billing machines to take care of all the known up-to-date business systems.

The SMITH PREMIER TYPEWRITER Co.,

Smith Premier House,

6 & 7, Queen Street, London, E.C.

W. G. (London, S.W.) complains that part of the Victoria Memorial is out of line, but if he wants it reconstructed we shall probably never get it opened at all.

"SABOT" (Birmingham) says the local police blackmail bookmakers. Really!

E. P. J. B. (Simons Town) says the fleet there is not seaworthy—indeed, only fit for the scrap-heap.

R. A. M. (Greenwich) thinks the Royal servants ought to have Coronation holidays. Surely not at the time of the Coronation.

H. S. (Leyton) comments upon the fact that we hear a great deal about good trade, yet poverty and unemployment do not diminish.

E. C. (Coventry) inquires about the Anglo-American School of Art Reproduction (11, Red Lion Square).

W. K. (St. Mary's Church) inquires about the reputation of a debt-recovery firm, but we have no faith in anyone who follows that horrid trade.

W. M. (Hove) complains of the terrible death-roll from motor-cars there and at Brighton.

A. B. (London).—We do not know of any special committee formed for the purpose, but we understand the Home Office is keeping its eye upon "Nursing Institutions."

SEVERN (Bristol).—The lodger took it, eh? Ah, that indeed's a tale of woe often encountered in the Courts.

"ALERT" (Glasgow) says that as soon as we warned our readers against C. Haynes and Co., portrait enlargement tricksters, 9, India Street, Glasgow, the person who runs the show, a German named Karl Hahner, found it necessary to alter his trading name for the fourth time and now passes as C. Graham.

"JUSTICE" thinks an alien does not get a fair trial nowadays, owing to the incessant denunciations of the sensational press. We agree that all aliens are not necessarily Anarchists.

D. H. T. (Islington) suggests that Crimean veterans should occupy a prominent position at the Coronation. Why not also some of the veterans of industry?

"CARTER" (Rusholme) answered an advertisement for a clerkship and received a circular from the British Situation Agency, 194, Oxford Road, Manchester, soliciting 1s. for "Situation guide and enrolment form."

H. P. (Cornsborough) sent 1s. to G. Rumler, M.D. Geneva, for a remedy for debility advertised in a Manchester paper, but has received no reply. This is perhaps just as well for him.

C. B. N. (Kirkcaldy) says that Messrs. J. P. Coats, Ltd., discharge employees who dare to apply elsewhere for a situation. Perhaps that is only the jealousy of love.

E. P. (Hitchin) is annoyed with "The Daily Chronicle" for stating the other day that Sir Hector Macdonald was to have been court-martialled on a grave charge. She says the charge was never made public and that the General's alleged death stopped any case which might have been pending. It certainly strikes us as unnecessary to rake up the matter now.

W. C. F. (Harlesden) has been quarrelling with his baker about short weight, and wants to claim £2 12s. 6d. for deficiency during 1 year and 9 months. We shall watch the case with interest, but shall be surprised if he wins it.

E. P. (Shifnal) was a pupil at the Mayfair School of Cookery, and says she derived no benefit whatever. She knows eight other girls who were no less disappointed than herself. Didn't she even learn how to cook accounts?

SHAMUR (Southend).—Don't like Southend? Well, try a river trip to Bow or Barking. Very salubrious.

W. E. (Wigan) says: "Not one single individual has ever gone into any mine with the knowledge that he has had matches about him. How the matches get there: they are placed in the men's pockets when they are having a smoke on the surface." This does not sound very convincing. There are no smokes without fire.

S. D. (Kensal Rise) says that Cup Ties seem to be merely a matter of money-grubbing. He attended Chelsea v. Swindon, and estimates that there were at least 5,000 people who paid for admission and were unable to see even the field of play. Who says we take our pleasures sadly!

"NOT QUITE A FOOL."—It certainly sounds a lot of money for a scrutiny in a football competition. Why not employ your time and money more profitably, say, by trying "Mrs. Bull's" new scheme?

A. G. (Derby).—Of course a man who has been acquitted of murder cannot be tried again even though twenty people turn up and swear they saw him do it. That is the wonderful logic of the law.

A. M. (Derby) suggests that some cinematograph firm in America should obtain films depicting the life of Mormon women, and supply the picture-halls over here. But the Mormon elders and the County Councils might both object.

DISGUSTED (Ilford).—Don't like Men's Meetings? Don't go then. Just stay at home and read Jim Crow, who's a bit of a preacher, you know.

"MILES" (Dublin) says the pension of a major's widow is £70 per annum, and that the £300 we mentioned is a gratuity for the widow of a major killed in action.

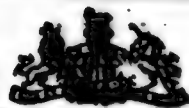
J. R. (Liverpool) relates his experience of H. P. Bishop, football accountant, Middelburg. J. R. sent 5s., and was entitled to receive 14s. 3d. On complaining, he was told that a very careful search did not reveal any trace of having received instructions, and that the best plan would be to inquire of the Post Office in London. He did so, and was informed that his postal order had been traced to Messrs. J. G. de Jonge and Co., of Flushing, who stated that they received the order from H. P. Bishop or his authorised representative. H. P. Bishop, however, still refuses to part.

W. A. C. (Southfields) asks whether it is fair to British workmen that the order for 11,000 Coronation mugs for some Cheshire children should be placed in Germany. But hasn't the order, after all, gone to a British firm?

[We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

GIVEN GRATS.

Mr. Gould, of Bradford, is giving the HOP BITTERS prescription to all who care to write for it. It has been the means of restoring many a sufferer to health whose case was considered hopeless. Cases of Paralysis, of Sleeplessness, Loss of Appetite, Liver and Kidney Trouble, Indigestion and Constipation have all disappeared under its influence. Proof is supplied with each prescription. Anyone in possession of this harmless vegetable recipe can for one shilling make the 4s. 6d. size bottle—and is sent free to all who mention this paper, enclosing a stamp for postage. Write—Mr. GOULD, 63, Holme Top Street, Bradford, Yorks.



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WEEKLY AVERAGE OF £71

and first week April this year £85. Now is the time for the man who knows nothing of racing to start. Even daily stakes; wires to Bookie if desired. We send daily wires free; "Click Method" free. Send stamp for details. London list completed. To non-system workers 5 Guaranteed Ring Winners £2; Occasional Guaranteed Ring Winner, 10/-; One or two-horse daily wire, per week, £1; 18 wires so far gave 25 winners. We back our own information. Letters only.
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Very massive square pillar all-brass bedstead, full-size, pure hair mattress, &c., from 60s.; an Italian square brass tube bedstead, 8gns.; black and brass bedstead, 30s.; 10 most massive and elaborate bedroom suites in Heppelwhite, Queen Anne, Chippendale, Sheraton, ash, white enamel, oak, &c., from 70s. each; 5ft. mahogany knee-hole dressing-table, fitted with swing mirror, 30 by 21, on pedestal supports, 12gs.; washstand on suite, with vein marble table top and tile back, £4 15s.; towel rail, en suite, 15s. three occasional chairs en suite, 45s.; 6ft. mahogany wardrobe, fitted rail 10 pegs, bonnet drawer, two sliding trays, five long and two short drawers silvered glass centre, two panel doors, 9gs.; 4ft. Spanish mahogany chest of four long drawers, shaped top, with column supports, on plinth, £3 10s.; mahogany shaving stand, with circular adjustable mirror, 25s.; 3ft. 6in. birch washstand, 10s.; Sheraton design bedroom suite, 6gns.; large size fully inlaid suite, 10gs.; and one 16gs.; three old antique chests, two tallboy chests, two very fine satinwood bedroom suites, inlaid with kingwood, &c., worth 200gs.; accept 110gs.; 6ft. Sheraton design bedroom suite, 25gs., worth 60gs.; mahogany cheval glass, 5gs.; 3ft. mahogany robe, two bedside tables, &c.

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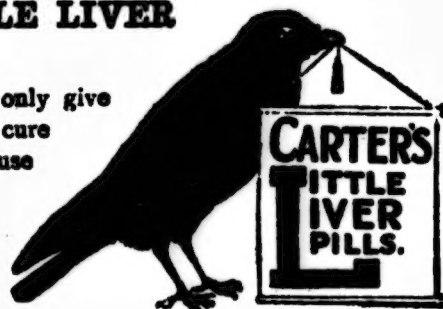
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RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.

("Larry Lynx" of THE PEOPLE, "Double U. L." of LOTINGA'S WEEKLY, and "Maggie" of THE GLOBE.)

Quantity—But not Quality.

The reason why little owners win so few races is that there are so many horses of "their" sort—moderate animals and platers—at the same game. Always worth watching.

Scratch games of football are frequently got up in Port Herald, Nyassaland Protectorate, the sides being composed of two whites on each and the remainder natives. The game is fast and furious—particularly the latter, and especially so if the teams are made up of two different tribes. An interesting study.

What a truly interesting article it would be if someone connected with the Druid's Lodge, Netheravon, or Manton stables were to explain "how to win races." The contrast would be a reply from Mr. A. Stedall or Mr. E. A. Bowen as to "how races cannot be gained." Stockton's error.

I was sorry to learn that the Stockton executive prevented the sale of race-cards, as hitherto, in the town, apparently pandering to the unreasonable and "womanish" ideas of the few that the streets should be kept silent. There are many ways better and more reasonable than the mere selling of race-cards during two or three days' racing in a year in which this veto could be applied. Prophetic.

The handicap race of the week is, of course, at Hurst Park, the Victoria Cup, on Saturday, in which the penalised Lincoln and Newbury winners, Mercutio and Rochester, will doubtless be "out" and backed. On the same form, several of them have a chance, but I can only put one in the race, and that is our unlucky Newbury choice,

PROTESTANT BOY,

who will assuredly win this as atonement.

On Monday, at Lingfield, TOILER, who ran right well at Sandown under a penalty and carrying overweight, will win the Victoria Plate, whilst SEATON DELAVAL ought to gain the Welter, and among such a very bad lot, and as bottom weight, too, VALIDE must surely get at least a place in the Sackville Selling Handicap.

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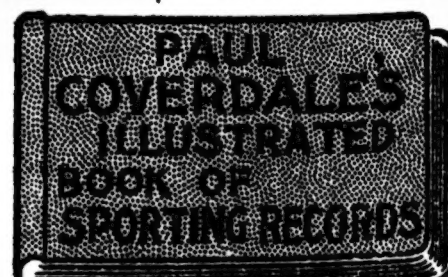
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INDISPUTABLE CERTAINTY

that money can be made by Racing with absolute regularity and safety.

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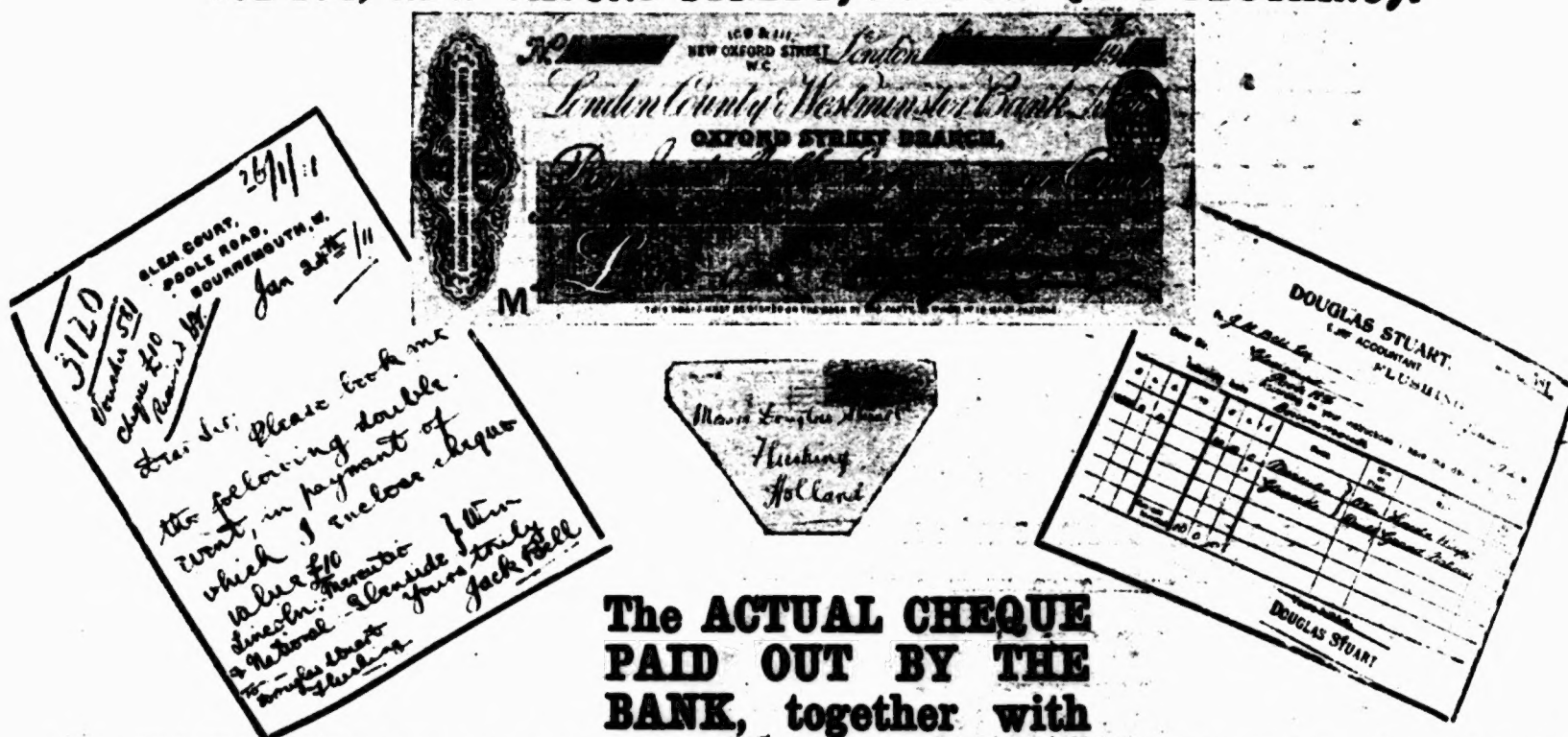
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"The Sketch" 12/4/11.

The fortunate man who recently won £10,000 through backing the winners of the Lincoln Handicap and the Grand National in a double is to be congratulated, and he is especially fortunate in having transacted this business with Mr. Douglas Stuart (Member of Tattersall's), of 102, New Oxford Street, and Flushing, who sent him an open cheque for the amount, which was cashed the following Monday morning.

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